

NATIONAL WILD LIFE ACTION PLAN

The Indian Board for Wildlife, in its 15th Meeting held in the year 1983, decided to prepare National Wildlife Action Plan. Accordingly, the first National Wildlife Action Plan was adopted in year 1983 and was implemented upto 2001. Subsequently, second National Wildlife Action Plan was for the period 2002 to 2016. Presently, third National Wildlife Action Plan for period 2017 to 2031 is in operation.

Background

As the NWAP-2 will no longer be operative beyond 2016, the Standing Committee, on the suggestion of the NBWL, in its 26th meeting, directed to undertake a review of NWAP-2 and based on its evaluations and lessons learnt, prepare a plan for the period 2017-2031.

The Plan focuses on the preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable development. The NWAP has five components, 17 themes, 103 conservation actions and 250 projects.

The five components;

1. Strengthening and promoting the **integrated management of wildlife and their habitats**
2. **Adaptation to climate change and promoting integrated sustainable management** of aquatic biodiversity in India
3. **Promoting eco-tourism**, nature education and participatory management
4. **Strengthening wildlife research** and monitoring of the development of human resources in wildlife conservation and
5. **Enabling policies and resources for conservation** of wildlife in India. The Plan will help to mainstream wildlife conservation in development planning processes.

Key Highlights of NWAP-3

- The plan is based on the premise that essential ecological processes that are governed or strongly moderated by ecosystems are essential for food production, health and other aspects of human survival and sustainable development.
- It also keeps in focus the intrinsic value of nature and its manifold components. The maintenance of these ecosystems, which can be termed as **'Life Support System'**, is considered vital for all societies regardless of their stage of development.
- It also emphasizes on two other aspects of nature conservation viz. Preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems, which have a direct bearing on our scientific advancement and support to millions of rural communities.
- The plan adopts a landscape approach in conservation of all wildlife i.e. uncultivated flora and undomesticated fauna that have an ecological value to the ecosystem and to mankind irrespective of where they occur
- It accords special emphasis to the recovery of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which include terrestrial, inland aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems
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- It underlines the fact that despite being one of 17 mega biodiversity countries of the world, national planning has not taken serious note of adverse ecological consequences of reduction and degradation of wilderness areas from the pressures of population, commercialization and development projects. Accordingly, the plan has brought to focus the alarming erosion of our natural heritage comprising of rivers, forests, grasslands, mountains, wetlands, coastal and marine habitats, arid lands and deserts.
- The plan underscores the increasing need for people's support for the conservation of wildlife and to this effect recommends strengthening the 'core-buffer-multi use surround' structure with higher inputs for eco-development, education, innovation, training, extension, conservation awareness and outreach programs.
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- Management of tourism in wildlife areas with related plough back mechanism, development of human resource and staff welfare has undergone a reorientation in the plan
- The plan is alive to communities, inhabiting forest lands and other wilderness areas, to be treated appropriately in the light of Forest Rights Act keeping in mind their inadequacy of resources and strong dependence on natural biomass resource.

Previous plans

- First Action Plan-1983
- Second action plan-2002-2016

DETAILS OF THE MEETINGS HELD

ANNEXURE B

S No.	Date	Place	Action	Decision taken
1	24th Nov. 2014	New Delhi	Introductory meeting	i) Will to review the progress of last plan. ii) Members were assigned different states for coordinators.
2	21st May 2015	New Delhi	Review of the progress	i) Structure of the report was finalised. ii) Members were assigned various chapters for review and send their write-ups for the new action plan.
3	5th July 2015	Bengaluru	Interaction was held with the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar, Goa and Kerala.	i) All the States/Union territories to submit the detailed note on various issues discussed during the meeting. ii) Chief Wildlife Warden - Karnataka and NTCA to forward inputs for Chapter I & II iii) Parrot Krishna (Kerala) to provide note on plough back mechanism
4	27th July 2015	New Delhi	Interaction was held with the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhnad and Himachal Pradesh.	i) All Chief Wildlife Wardens to forward a brief note on wildlife conservation in their states and suggestions for new action plan. ii) Chief Wildlife Warden - Uttarakhnad to forward a brief note on mobilisation of resources. iii) Member Secretary NTCA to send a brief note on CZA and rescue centres
5	28th Aug. 2015	Gwalior	Interaction was held with Chief Wildlife Wardens of Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.	i) All Chief Wildlife Wardens were requested to send a brief note on wildlife conservation in their states along with the suggestions to be incorporated in the new plan.

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6	25th & 27th Oct. 2015	Dehradun	The meeting took up detailed discussion through point wise deliberations on all the chapters, except three draft of which had not been received till then, and finalised most of the issues that came up for the discussion during the meeting.	i) Review and analysis of achievements and progress made under the present plan shall be briefly elucidated in the new plan. ii) A drafting committee under the chairmanship of Shri S S Das, member, was constituted with the following as member: Shri D C Khadwat, Co-opted member Dr. K. Shivakumar, WII DIG Wildlife, MOEF CC iii) Preface to be added to the plan briefly mentioning broad outline and rationale of this plan. iv) Landscape level planning to run as central thread through all the chapters of the Plan. v) Chapter on climate change to be discussed with proposed in-service training of APCC's of the states.
7	11th & 14th Jan. 2016	Rajnagar, Uttarakhnad	The draft prepared by the drafting committee, was discussed in detail and after due deliberations the committee made necessary changes in the draft, as per consensus arrived.	i) The plan will be based on the premises of mainstreaming the conservation necessities across the sector and activities. ii) There will be a separate Chapter on Landscape Level Approach for wildlife conservation. iii) Chapter on restoration of ecogestic habitats outside PAs will be merged with the Chapter on Landscape Level Approach. iv) A separate Chapter on wildlife health will be drafted by WTI.

S No.	Date	Place	Action	Decision taken
8	19th & 20th Feb. 2016	Sasan Gir, Gujarat	The comments received from various stakeholders, in response of placing the draft document on the website of the Ministry, were discussed through and decision regarding their acceptance/ modification/rejection were decided unanimously regarding the Chapters which had already been finalised and the authors of the remaining Chapters were requested to take similar action with respect to their Chapter and finalise it.	i) Dr. Sukumar will make necessary changes in the Chapter on Climate Change. ii) Dr. G S Rousal will submit draft on rehabilitation of threatened species. iii) UNEP will submit a paragraph on status of medicinal plants. iv) Comments and inputs from various stakeholders will be requested through email and would be presented during next meeting. i) All the authors who were to finalise their Chapters were requested to submit the final draft to the Chairman / Drafting committee by 24th of February 2016. ii) The drafting committee will incorporate the decision taken with regard to the comments of the stakeholders on the finalised Chapters and will include the remaining chapters submitted by the various authors after due scrutiny and submit it to the Chairman as soon as possible. iii) The Chairman will review and finalise the draft before sending it to WTI for editing. iv) The WTI will edit it and submit it to the approval of the Chairman so that it could be finally submitted to the Ministry by 9th March, the last working day of the committee.