





Development of an EIA Biodiversity Data Publishing Framework

India Pilot Project

Asha Rajvanshi ar@wii.gov.in Professor and Head, EIA Cell, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

The Context.....

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) generates biodiversity records with every project
- Many of these records and information on RET species can be new and valuable for strengthening biodiversity conservation

New distribution record of Gangetic Dolphin

A new finding on distribution of Baers Pochard





The Context

- The mobilization of EIA related biodiversity data by India is a step towards the implementation of the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) ...make EIA data freely available for improved decision making (Decision VIII/11)
- Also a step towards adopting the recommendation in the 2006 CBD Impact Assessment voluntary guidelines*link biodiversity assessment to EIA* processes at national and global levels.

India Pilot Project Objectives

- Collect biodiversity data from EIA reports and develop web based facility for long-term archival and accessibility through IndBIF and GBIF portals
- Roll-out of EIA biodiversity data archival, and publishing facilities in India
- Develop EIA best practices and document lessonlearnt
- Establish 'EIA biodiversity data publishing facilities in the region.

FORM -ONE– First layer of information on biodiversity sought in EIA

- Areas protected under international conventions, national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other related value.
- Areas which are important or sensitive for ecological reasons Wetlands, watercourses or other water bodies, coastal zone, biospheres, mountains, forests.
- Areas used by protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over wintering, migration.
- Inland, coastal, marine or underground waters.
- State, National boundaries.
- Routes or facilities used by the public for access to recreation or other tourist, pilgrim areas.
- Areas occupied by sensitive man-made land uses (hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities).
- Areas containing important, high quality or scarce resources (ground water resources, surface resources, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals).
- Areas already subjected to pollution or environmental damage.
- Areas susceptible to natural hazard which could cause the project to present environmental problems (*earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions*)

Type of biodiversity data found in EIAs

- All data within 10 km radius of project sites
- Spatial data of the project site
- Inventories of resources
- Checklists of flora and fauna
- Records of distribution, abundance
- Existing and potential threats to a biodiversity resource, species and habitats
- Ecological corridors and migration routes
- Ecological models

FIGURE-3.2.2 LAND USE PATTERN BASED ON SATELLITE DATA





TABLE 3.30: AVIFAUNA			
English name	Scientific name	English name	Scientific name
Painted francolin	Francolinus pictus	Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis
Grey Francolin	Francolinus pondicerianus	White Breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus
Rain Quail	Coturnix coromandelica	Common coot	Fulica atra
Jungle Bush Quail	Perdicula asiatica	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
Small Buttonquail	Turnix coromandelica	Small Pratincole	Glareola Lactea
Tellow Legged Buttonquail	Turnix tanki	Pallid Harrier	Circus macrourus
Barred Buttonquail	Turnix suscitator	Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis
Indian Peafowl	Pavo cristatus	Tawny Eagle	Aquila rapax
Lesser Whistling Duck	Dendocygna javanica	Bonellis Eagle	Hieraaetus facciatus
Cotton Pygmy Goose	Nettapus coromandelianus	Red necked Falcon	Falco chicquera
Spot Billed Duck	Anas poecilorhycha	Little Grebe	Tachybaptu ruficollis
Eursian Wigeon	Anaspenelope	Intermediate Egret	Mesophoyx intermedia
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
Common Teal	Anascrecca	Bay backed shrike	Lanius vittatus
Garganey	Anas wuerquedula	House crow	Corvus splendens
Eurasian wryneck	Indicator xanthonotus	Large Billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos
Yello crowned woodpecker	Dendrocopos mahrattensis	Black Hooded Oriole	Oriolus tenuirostris
Brown capped pygmy woodpecker	Dendrocopos nanus	Small Minivet	Pericrocotus divaricatus
Streak throated woodpecker	Picus xanthopygaeus	White Browed fantail	Rhipidura aureola
Black Rumped Flameback	Dinopium benghalense	Black Drong	Dicrurus macrocercus
White Naped Woodpecker	Chrysocolaptes festivus	Greater Drongo Racket tailed	Dicrurus paradiseus
Brown Headed Barbet	Megalaima zeylanica	Asian brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica
Coppersmith Barbet	Megalaima haemacephala	Oriental Magpie Robin	Copsychus saularis

Benefits of the India Pilot Project

- Build biodiversity records outside Pas
- Review biodiversity trends over time and provide guidance for appropriate actions
- Generate a reliable baseline for monitoring
- Help overcome data deficiency
- Would lead to future EIAs becoming less time consuming

Outcome of the project

For Resource managers and biodiversity experts

 Incorporation of biodiversity data into the national datasets for reuse

For EIA practitioners

Building a culture of promoting data sharing

For Regulatory agency

 Ensure generating good quality data liable for checks by others in subsequent EIAs

For EIA reviewers

- Lead to improvement in EIAs based on quality data
- Facilitate good environmental decision-making

Key Challenges

- The challenge involved collation of information from a very large number of reports with inconsistent formats and variability in focus, scale and quality of information
- Mobilization of data from paper formats to digital formatshuge effort
- Mechanisms for creating one central repository of EIA data still need to be evolved
- Inadequate coordination between various data holders at the country level
- Problem of mindset with respect to data sharing (To share or not share and when to share?)

Thank you all