

Data collection for Goa's first biodiversity plan under way

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: The work of collecting data for the draft Goa state biodiversity strategy and action plan (GSBSAP) is presently under way. Goa is the first state to begin this preparation, based on the biodiversity framework adopted by the UN in August this year.

The sub-committee was working under a 45-member committee formed in early 2022. This is the largest committee formed in the state for the preparation of any plan.

The biodiversity plan for Goa will not only document the state's biodiversity in minute detail, but also frame a strategy to drive conservation of the state's resources by linking it to livelihood for local populations. This is expected to give the local populations a further incentive to conserve.

While the Goa state biodiversity board is seeking inputs from the public, data and suggestions are also being collected from each of the biodiversity management committees operating in every village. In the meantime, scientists

TO DO LIST

Some of the chapters of the GSBSAP will cover

- > Conservation of **biodiversity of coastal, marine and vulnerable** ecosystems
- > Sustainable development planning for rural and urban areas
- > **Climate change**
- > Traditional knowledge
- > **Mid-plains**
- > Forest areas
- > **Agro-biodiversity**
- > The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is meant define the current status of biodiversity,



the threats leading to its degradation and the strategies and priority actions to ensure its conservation and sustainable use

> The state action plan will be prepared broadly using the national framework

and experts heading the various sub-committees formed by the state are also collecting information from researchers and gathering inputs from relevant scientific studies carried out to date related to the state's biodiversity.

Recently, the first meeting of the sub-committees was convened to present the first set of data collected by them for the GSBSAP.

Rajiv Chaturvedi of BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus, who previously also carried out an analysis of the Goa state action plan on climate change, said in his presentation that mean annual temperatures in Goa may increase by around 2 degrees Celsius in the 2050s.

The temperatures may further rise by around 4 degrees Celsius by 2080s under high

emission scenarios. Also, rainfall is likely to remain stable or slightly decline in the future, the researcher said, presenting data for his sub-committee on climate change.

Similarly, researcher Parag Rangnekar said in his presentation that fires on plateaus and grasslands seem to be an evident threat to butterfly and insect diversity.

Once the draft GSBSAP is ready, the Goa state biodiversity board will hold two separate consultations with the people in North and South Goa. Work on the plan began in January 2022.

The preparation of the plan is an initiative by the Union environment ministry, where every state and Union territory is provided a broad framework, based on which they have to formulate a detailed action plan towards its biodiversity conservation.

Goa had earlier already framed an action plan, but it was mainly meticulous documentation of the state's biodiversity, whereas the new plan is to provide a framework for conservation.