



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development



Confederation of Indian Industry

Indian Industry Performance Towards Biodiversity

Consolidated Disclosure Report 2021

Developed by



India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI)

Summary



Nature is the foundation of economic growth, human well-being, and sustainable businesses. As dependencies of our economies and businesses on nature is clear (becoming clearer?), we must identify and mitigate the risks of nature loss. Action to halt nature loss is essential to address climate change, long-term food security and health.

The need for private sector engagement has been recognised as crucial for conservation and sustainable management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (B&Es). It is of paramount importance to prioritise actions to achieve the 2050 Vision. Efforts to conserve and restore biodiversity, and to keep climate change well below 2^o Celsius, need to be scaled up and combine increases in the extent of and effectiveness of conservation measures, large scale restoration of degraded habitats and improvements in the condition of nature across farmed and urban landscapes as well as inland water bodies, coasts and oceans¹.

Businesses have started recognising that companies' activities not only lead to financial and economic outcomes but also involve non-financial aspects like environmental and social impacts. With the growing concerns for degradation of natural resources, climate change and nature loss, it is vital for businesses to reduce their impacts on nature.

India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) is conceptualised by MoEFCC and hosted by the CII -ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) since 2014. It is a business-led initiative providing a national platform to promote sharing and learning, and ultimately lead to mainstreaming sustainable management of biodiversity in the business value chain.

Businesses are faced with challenges and risks of overexploitation of natural resources, land use change, habitat diversion, climate change and pollution which are leading to loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services. The IBBI declaration helps organisations to map their business linkages with biodiversity and ecosystem services and to identify risks and opportunities across their value chain.

IBBI member companies, as a voluntary commitment submit a biennial biodiversity disclosure, based on the IBBI reporting framework, which showcases the efforts made by them towards acting and achieving conservation and sustainable development.

In this consolidated report, the findings and key aspects reported by 30 IBBI member companies towards the 2020 reporting cycle are presented in a consolidated manner.

¹ <https://www.wbcsd.org/contentwbc/download/10390/155398/1>

Key Highlights

25 Sectors including Agriculture, Mining, Forestry, Manufacturing, Infrastructure, Automobile, FMGC, Tourism, Real Estate etc. are represented

30 Member companies submitted their disclosures on biodiversity in 2020, IBBI reporting cycle 3.0

84 Biodiversity champions assigned by member companies at corporate/site level for integration of biodiversity

369 Sites across these member companies are screened for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

43% of these companies consider biodiversity as core material value

38 % of them have a dedicated 'Biodiversity Policy'

40% adopted 'No Net Loss' approach for Net Zero Impact

53% have defined Science-based Targets and adopted Nature-based Solutions











77% of them contribute to SDG's through biodiversity initiatives

I. Introduction

India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) was launched on 22 May 2014. This initiative has been conceptualised by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and hosted by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD). IBBI serves as a national platform for businesses and its stakeholders, engaging them through advocacy, policy, capacity building and guides to mainstream and sustainably manage biodiversity and ecosystem services across the business value chain.

IBBI 10 Point Declaration was formulated by IBBI members to showcase commitment towards conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in their business operations. Businesses join IBBI by signing the 10 Point Declaration (company CEO or equivalent needs to sign). As signatories, members need to submit a biennial disclosure report to show the progress made and present the various activities undertaken towards implementing declaration points across their business value chain.

IBBI 10 Point Declaration

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Mapping biodiversity interfaces with business operations |  Enhancing awareness on biodiversity within the organisation |
|  Considering the impacts of business decisions on biodiversity |  Setting objectives and targets for biodiversity management |
|  Designating an individual within the organisation as biodiversity champion |  Assessing biodiversity risks and opportunities |
|  Including the applicable biodiversity aspects in the environmental management systems |  Encouraging relevant stakeholders to support better biodiversity management |
|  Engaging in policy advocacy and dialogue with Government, NGOs and academia on biodiversity concerns |  Initiating the valuation of relevant biodiversity and eco-system services |

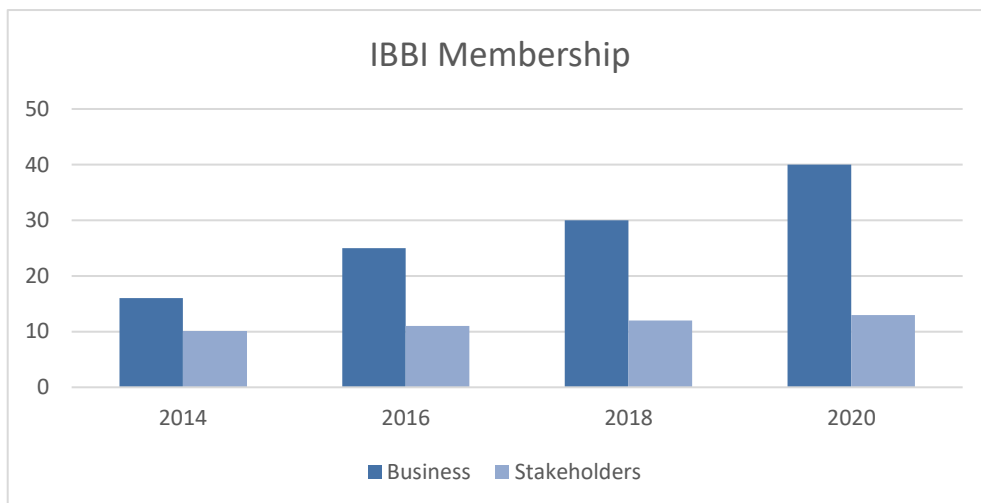
II. IBBI Biodiversity Disclosure

The business signatories report using IBBI reporting framework, which incorporates the learnings from key frameworks involving biodiversity aspects like GRI, DJSI, BRR and SDGs. It also integrates aspects

of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, a framework for reversing and halting nature loss and mitigating climate change for the coming decade.

The Disclosure Report is compiled using 21 indicators relating to the 10 Point Declaration, by a two-level approach: Core (reporting on 11 indicators) and Comprehensive (reporting on all indicators). A [guidance document](#) is provided to members for reference and adopting the reporting framework².

III. Membership



IBBI members include business signatories and stakeholders from various sectors, development organisations, NGOs, academia, and research institutes.

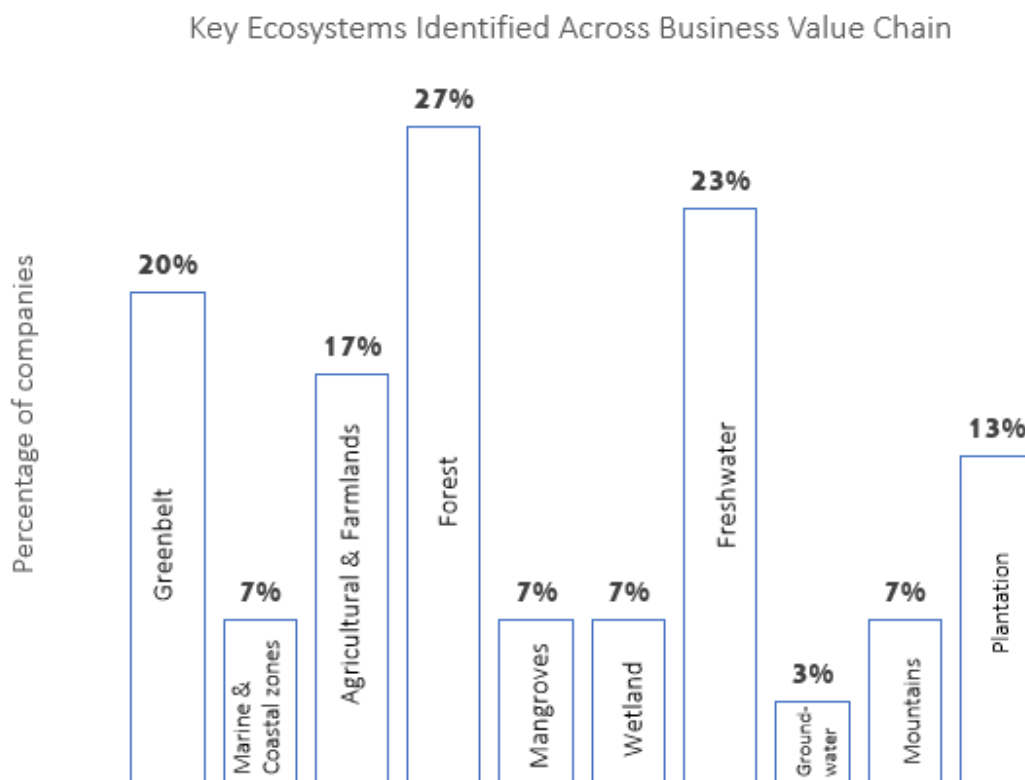


² <https://sustainabledevelopment.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-IBBI-Guidance-Documents-for-Biodiversity-Disclosure.pdf>

IV. Member Implementation of Biodiversity

a. Mapping of or Impacts & Dependencies

The Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services (B&ES) of 369 sites, across 30 businesses, operating in 17 states of India have been screened. Through this, members have identified important ecosystem inter-linking to their operations or supply chain.

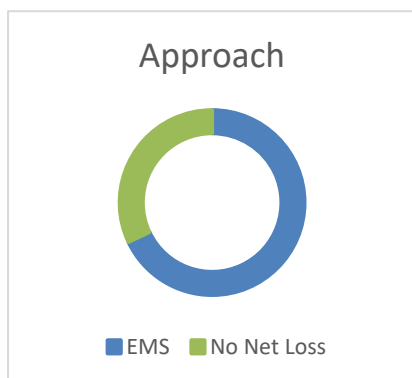
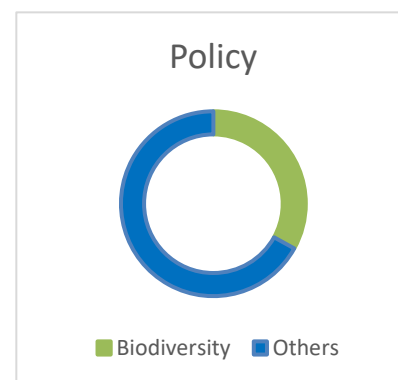


The tools used by members for screening and identifying their impacts and dependencies on B&Es:

- IBBI Ecosystem Service Matrix
- IBBI Quick Scan
- Industrial Biodiversity Indexing
- Biodiversity Indicator & Reporting System (BIRS)
- Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)
- Legal Compliance Tool
- Developing, implementing, and monitoring of Biodiversity Action Plan
- IBBI Natural Capital Valuation

b. Member commitment for biodiversity conservation

- i. Member integration of biodiversity at the policy level**
- 🌿 38 % members have a dedicated biodiversity policy
 - 🌿 77% members have incorporated aspects of biodiversity into their existing sustainability, procurement, code of conduct and other policies



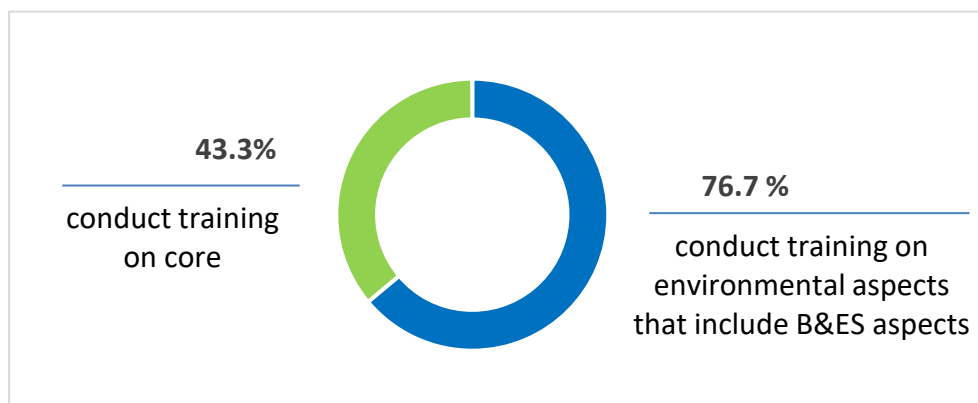
ii. Member approach for integration of biodiversity

- 🌿 68 % members integrated biodiversity aspects into their existing Environment Management Systems
- 🌿 32% members integrated biodiversity through the No Net Loss approach

c. Awareness & capacity building of internal stakeholders

Various programmes adopted for employee awareness creation:

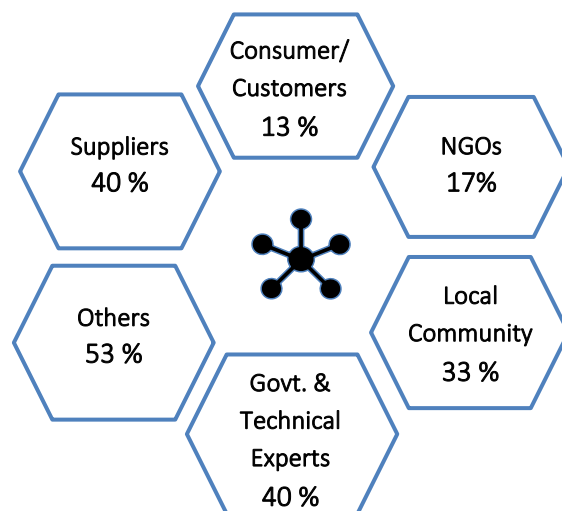
- 🌿 B&Es certified training programme
- 🌿 Environment day celebrations
- 🌿 Channel for flow of biodiversity information to employees
- 🌿 Capacity building on biodiversity policies, guidelines, and regulations
- 🌿 Participation at regional, national & international forums
- 🌿 Employee engagement through biodiversity drives like plantation, seed collection, bird watching, beach cleaning, human-wildlife conflict awareness creation etc.
- 🌿 Showcasing and sharing case study & best practice examples



d. External stakeholder engagement

Various programmes adopted for stakeholder engagement:

- 🌿 Community level programmes like plantation, water restoration, livelihood enhancement etc.
- 🌿 Training programmes for farmers, tribal communities & local authorities on policies, sustainable practices & conservation
- 🌿 Supplier code of conduct, certification & standards
- 🌿 Partnerships with technical experts, government organisations and NGOs for sustainable solutions, products & services
- 🌿 Collaboration with research/academic institutes for in-situ & ex-situ species/crop variety conservation



e. Identification of risks & opportunities

80% of the members have an in-built process and follow timely monitoring of risks across their value chain.



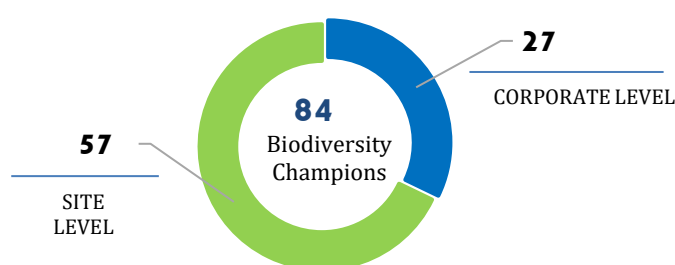
Management of risks gives them opportunities across the parallels of socio-economic & environment, creating benefits in terms of cost effectiveness, reputational & brand value, recognition & marketplace.

IBBI members over the years have evolved to understand, identify, and manage their risk using scientific knowledge, tools and sustainable modules.

V. Progress Made by Businesses

a. Biodiversity Champion

Starting with one or two leading members at the time of inception, today, all the IBBI members have appointed a key person who is responsible for aspects of biodiversity. Among the member companies, up to 84 members have a



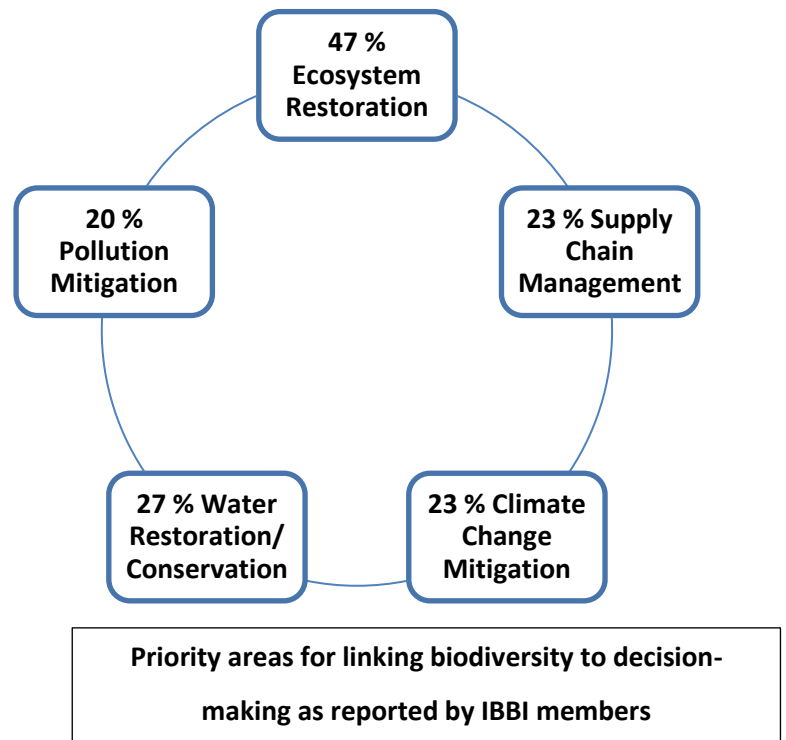
designated “Biodiversity Champion”. It is important to have an in-house expert on the aspects of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable management, who can guide the organisation towards a positive pathway with SMART targets & a strong action plan.

Role of the Biodiversity Champion:

- 🌱 Mainstreaming biodiversity across value chain
- 🌱 Driving transformation at group-level and site-levels
- 🌱 Guiding the integration of nature & climate aspects into strategies, goals & targets
- 🌱 Overseeing sustainable management, monitoring, and positive outcomes
- 🌱 Integration and capacity building on tools and modules with organisation’s operations/supply chain
- 🌱 Awareness creation within the organisation on national/international developments in policy, schemes & mechanisms
- 🌱 Supporting in effective decision-making and timely meeting of commitments
- 🌱 Building strong partnerships and stakeholder engagement programmes
- 🌱 Developing case studies and best practice examples.
- 🌱 Incorporate outcomes into reporting and present at national/international platforms

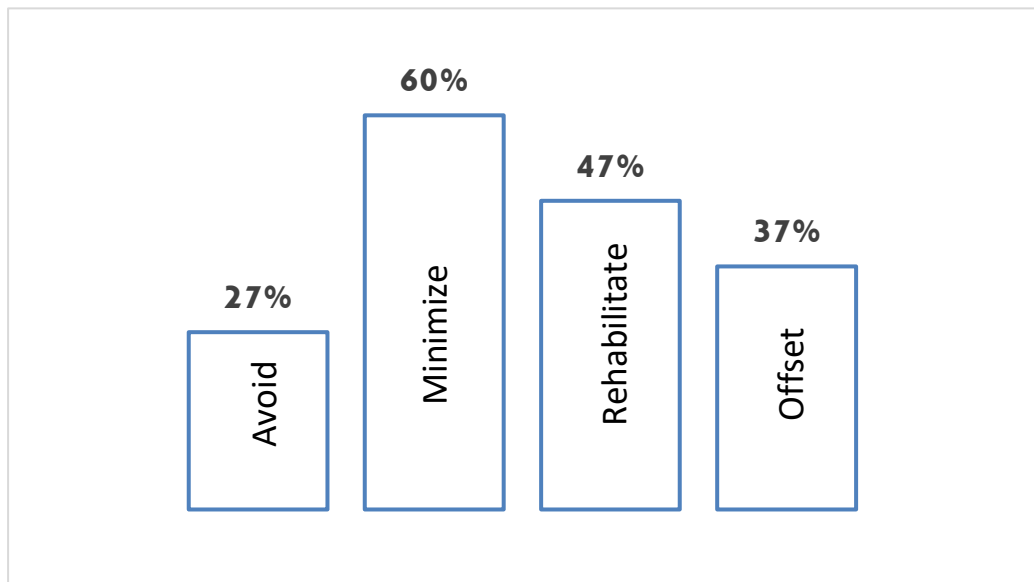
b. Drives of decision-making for biodiversity

Business awareness and recognition on/of biodiversity has grown over in the last six years of the IBBI journey. From businesses directly linked to biodiversity to businesses operating in all sectors, the value of biodiversity & ecosystem services has grown to great extent. Today many of the members consider biodiversity aspects as core to their business and of material value in their operations & supply chain.





c. Pathways for risk mitigation

The mitigation hierarchy- Avoid, Minimise, Rehabilitation & Offset, acts as a promising tool for risk mitigation & management. Specific modules, which are easily adoptable and scalable have been identified and integrated by members.



Action for Mitigation

-  **Avoid**- natural space diversion/disturbance, ecosystem degradation, illegal trade & overexploitation of resources
-  **Minimise**- land use change, unsustainable practices, pollution, use of pesticides, water loss, degradation of native species

- 🌱 **Rehabilitation/Restoration-** plantation, ecosystem restoration, mangrove conservation, wetland restoration or watershed management
- 🌱 **Offset-** afforestation, ecozone, biodiversity parks, medicinal plant garden etc.

d. Nature & climate solutions

Many businesses, beyond value chain management, make long-term commitments for addressing the issues of biodiversity loss and climate change. It is crucial for businesses to operate within the planetary boundaries. This calls for aligning and committing to national/international goals and targets and contribute towards the wellbeing of planet & people.

- 🌱 ~50 % members have adhered to Science-based Targets across their value chain and have clear pathways for companies to reduce biodiversity loss & mitigate climate change
- 🌱 ~50% members have adopted Nature-based Solutions for management of biodiversity, climate change adaptation & resource efficiency
- 🌱 More than 60% members are creating non-monetary benefits through sustainable supply chain management, community engagement, education & knowledge sharing and partnerships at the local level.

VI. Way Forward

a. Achieving Net Zero by 2030

IBBI members, in close consultation with key stakeholders are adopting 'No Net Loss' approach for meeting the Net Zero commitment. IBBI guides its members to build a company specific technical standard and action plan for no net loss across the operations, supply chain, products & services.

~10 members have integrated no net loss into their biodiversity policy, sustainability framework and climate action strategy.

b. Carbon Sequestration

Businesses consider carbon sequestration to be an ideal solution for addressing biodiversity loss & climate change in a synergetic manner. This approach supports in creating multiple co-benefits for businesses. IBBI helps businesses to take up carbon sequestration using IBBI tool and provides capacity building programmes for developing suitable modules.

~6 members have taken up carbon sequestration at their site-level or operations level

c. Valuation

Valuation of Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services across the business value chain helps in identifying the key risks & recognise the value for mitigation & conservation. IBBI builds capacity of businesses on the tools and pathways for valuation. Business efforts towards conservation & restoration can be evaluated and value addition done in terms of benefits across society, economy and environment be

determined. This will help businesses to identify their gaps and improve their performance towards positive change.

~50 % of members have taken up valuation studies across their value chain

VII. Conclusion

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are critical to businesses, for achieving sustainable development. Businesses are faced with challenges and risks of overexploitation of natural resources, land use change, habitat diversion, climate change and pollution which are leading to loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services.

Effective biennial biodiversity reporting, which includes establishing a governance structure, developing strategy and timely mapping & monitoring of B&ES aspects in the value chain, will add value to businesses in several areas that are interlinked with sustainable development. Integrating the learnings by following this reporting framework will help businesses to identify gaps and acting sustainably. It supports in reducing dependency on natural resources, increase efficiency & improve operational performance. It will also help in meeting the regulatory requirements, addressing the socioenvironmental risks, and delivering better value to stakeholders.

The key aspects from this consolidated report have been shared as inputs to MoEFCC for submission of the National Biodiversity Report and presented to UN CBD for consideration. This brings recognition to Indian industry as being nature positive businesses.
