

Guidelines on Biological Diversity Heritage Site
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Notification
New Delhi, the date, month, year

S.O.xxxx(E)-in Exercise of the power conferred by section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (18 of 2003) the Central Government hereby makes the following guidelines.

1. Guidelines for Declaration of Biological Diversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 under the provisions of section 37 requires the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) to notify in the official gazette and frame rules for the management and conservation of certain biodiversity rich areas as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS). The following paragraphs contain such guidelines, which shall be called the "Guidelines for Biodiversity Heritage Sites".

2. Importance of Biological Diversity Heritage Sites:

Biodiversity is closely linked to ecological security. Loss of biodiversity and bio-resources are in the increasing trend and also threatened by the human activities. Therefore, it is necessary to instill and nurture conservation ethics in the community. The declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Site will ensure bringing home the values and ethics in the society and thereby protecting the environment ensuring availability of bio-resources for the present and future generations.

3. Definition of Biological Diversity Heritage Sites:

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique ecologically fragile ecosystems-terrestrial, freshwater or marine having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the components such as; species richness, high endemism, presence of rare, endemic and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or land races or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having cultural or aesthetic values.

4. The criteria for identification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

The BHS shall be identified in accordance with the definition above. Accordingly the following types of areas of biodiversity importance shall qualify as BHS.

- a. Areas of biodiversity importance that contain a mosaic of natural semi-natural and human made habitats, which together contain a unique diversity of life forms.
- b. Areas of biodiversity importance that contain significant domesticated biodiversity and/or representative of agro biodiversity and agro ecosystems.
- c. Areas of biodiversity importance that are of cultural significance such as sacred groves and sites, or other large community conserved areas.
- d. Areas of biodiversity importance that offer refuge or corridors for threatened and endemic fauna and flora, such as community conserved areas or urban greens and wetlands.
- e. Areas of biodiversity importance whether government, community or private shall be considered.

5. Background information:

Areas rich from biodiversity point of view which have the potential of being notified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites, interalia include sacred groves and sites, and areas with wild relatives of domesticated biodiversity.

Areas which have already been designated, identified or notified (for example as protected area, biosphere reserve etc) under other Acts or programmes may not be considered under this provision. The idea is to identify those areas important from biodiversity point of view which do not enjoy protection/support under any other Act or programme.

**PROPOSAL FOR DECLARATION OF BIOLOGICAL HERITAGE SITE ON REVENUE
LAND UNDER BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT 2002**

(For location outside the Reserve Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park)

1.	Identification of Property	
a	State	
b	Name of the property	
c	Exact location (Please enclose Map)	
d	Maps/ plans showing boundary of area proposed.	
e	Area of site proposed for declaration (Acre)	
2	Justification for Declaration	
a	What is the significance of the proposed site?	
b	Why the declaration is proposed give justification.	
c	Threat if any (give details)	
3	Description	
b	Present status of conservation	
4	Management	
a	Ownership	
b	Legal Status	
c	Agency to Manage the site after declaration.	
d	Name, Designation and address of responsible person for contact.	
e	Sources of expertise.	
5	Factors Affecting the Site	
a	Pressures on the site (Encroachment, Agriculture etc)	
b	Environmental Pressures	
c	Visitor / tourism pressures	
6	Documentation	
a	Photographs (submit if available)	
b	Existing site management plans if any.	
7	Opinion of other concerned stakeholders.	
8	Details of disputes if any on the site (give details)	
9	General remarks if any	

Date:

Place:

Signature & Seal

Name:

Address

Phone Number.....

Email Address:.....

