Concurrent to India’s Presidency of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Indian companies have joined hands to address the critical issue of biodiversity loss under a national initiative. The India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) will serve as a national platform of business and its stakeholders for dialogue sharing and learning, ultimately leading to mainstreaming sustainable management of biological diversity into businesses. IBBI’s vision is to sensitize, guide and mentor Indian business organizations in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use related to their operations, across their value chain and beyond towards conservation of India’s biodiversity.

On invitation by the Indian Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is hosting IBBI with the support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The initiative was launched on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, 2014, at WWF-India Secretariat, Lodi Estate, New Delhi, India. The Programme also followed the official launch of the IBBI logo and website. Link: http://businessbiodiversity.in/index.php

Indo-German Biodiversity Programme supports IBBI under its project, ‘Incentives for Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ISBM)’, which is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

IBBI Membership

Membership to IBBI is open for companies from any sector and size, as well as stakeholder organizations that can contribute to the platform in terms of technical assistance. The business members of IBBI are subject to become signatories to a 10-point IBBI Declaration, demonstrating the organization’s commitment towards biodiversity. The Companies that have signed the IBBI declaration are:

- **Ambuja Cements Ltd**, is one of India’s leading cement manufacturers and has completed over 25 years of operations.
- **Dabur India Ltd** is one of the leading FMCG Companies in India and a world leader in Ayurvedic medicine manufacture with a portfolio of over 250 Herbal products.
- **Faber-Castell**, established in 1761, is the world’s leading manufacturer of wood-based pencils with a varied range of products for writing, drawing and creative design.
- **Godrej** has 7 major companies and interests in real estate, FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods), industrial engineering, appliances, furniture, security and agri care, Godrej is present in more than 60 countries worldwide.
- **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited** is one of India’s leading infrastructure development and finance companies.
- **Paharpur Business Centre and Software Technology Incubator Park**’s core business is to offer instant plug-and-play office facilities and hi-tech conference and training facilities.
The members of the India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) acknowledge the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

On behalf of my organisation, we shall endeavour to take action in some of the following areas:

1. mapping biodiversity interfaces with business operations;
2. enhancing awareness on biodiversity within the organisation;
3. considering the impacts of business decisions on biodiversity;
4. setting objectives and targets for biodiversity management;
5. designating an individual within the organisation as biodiversity champion;
6. assessing biodiversity risks and opportunities;
7. including the applicable biodiversity aspects in the environmental management systems;
8. encouraging relevant stakeholders to support better biodiversity management;
9. engaging in policy advocacy and dialogue with Government, NGOs and academia on biodiversity concerns;
10. initiating the valuation of relevant biodiversity and eco-system services.

The initiative is supported by:

- Rio Tinto is a leading global mining and metals company operating since last the 140 years in over 40 countries across six continents
- Tata Chemicals Limited is an Indian global company with interests in chemicals, crop nutrition and consumer products.
- Tata Power is India's largest integrated power company. The core business is to generate, transmit and distribute electricity.
- Tata Steel was established in 1907 as Asia's first integrated private sector steel company and among the top-ten global steel companies.
- Volkswagen is the biggest German automaker and the second largest automaker in the world.
- Wipro Limited is a Indian multinational IT Consulting and System Integration services company the company has 146,000 employees servicing over 900 large enterprise corporations with a presence in 61 countries.