

PROCEEDINGS



59

National Seminar

on

IPR Management in Biodiversity Conservation: Implications of Access Benefit Sharing, TRIP/CBD and Biodiversity Acts

January 17-18, 2020



In collaboration with
GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
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Proceedings of the
National Seminar

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**IPR Management in Biodiversity Conservation:
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and Biodiversity Acts**

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Biodiversity : A Review

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Abstract

The loss of biological diversity is a global crisis. There is hardly any region on the Earth that is not facing ecological catastrophes. Of the 1.7 million species known to inhabit the Earth (human are just one of them), one third to one fourth is likely to extinct within the next few decades. Biological extinction has been a natural phenomenon in geological history. But the rate of extinction was perhaps one species every 1000 years. But man's intervention has speeded up extinction rates all the more. Between 1600 and 1500, the rate of extinction went up to one species every 10 years. It is estimated that about 50 species are being driven to extinction every year, bulk of them in tropical forest, due to human interference. In this paper status, definition and importance of biodiversity have been discussed.

Keywords : Biodiversity, Ecosystem, WRI and WB

Introduction

For much of the time man lived in a hunter-gather society and thus depended entirely on biodiversity for sustenance. But with the increased dependence on agriculture and industrialization, the emphasis on biodiversity has decreased. Indeed, the biodiversity, in wild and domesticated forms, is the source for most of humanity, food, medicine, clothing and housing, much of the cultural diversity and most of the intellectual and spiritual inspiration. It is, without doubt, the very basis of life. Further that, a quarter of the earth's total biological diversity amounting to 1.7 million species, which might be useful to mankind in one way or other, would be in serious risk of existence over the next 2-3 decades. On realization that the erosion of biodiversity may threaten the very existence of life has awakened man to take steps to conserve it. In this paper, concept, types and importance of biodiversity have been discussed.

Concept of Biodiversity

The concept of biodiversity (synonyms with biological diversity) has been known to man ever since he began to minutely observe the living being around him. The term biological diversity was used by Robert E. Jenkins and Thomas Lovejoy in 1980. The word biodiversity itself may have been coined by W. G. Rosen in 1985. The term biodiversity was used as the title for a symposium organized by national Research council in Washington in 1986. At about that time, as people became more aware of the extinction crisis, biodiversity emerged as a significant issue. It was given concrete expression in the World Resources Institute (WRI), World Bank (WB), International Union of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) publications concerned with conservation of world's biological diversity. However, biodiversity did not become a familiar term to general public until the United Nations

Conference on the Environmental and
Development (UNCED) held at Rio de
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