



Image credit : <https://www.tamilnadutourism.tn.gov.in/photos/wildlife>

Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration

Why conserve Biodiversity?

- India is one of the megadiverse countries of the world with 2.4% of the land area, accounting for 7-8% of the species globally.
- More than 50% of the national and global GDP depends on nature, especially through raw material for key economic sectors such as food, infrastructure, clothing, pharmaceuticals, tourism, etc.
- Biodiversity-rich areas provide critical ecosystem services to society including water, pollination, nutrition-rich soil, medicines, food and recreation.
- The Global Risk Report 2024 of the World Economic Forum highlights biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse as one of the most critical economic risks in the coming decade. The loss of biodiversity has significant impacts on livelihoods, human health and well-being.
- Depleting biodiversity significantly reduces the climate resilient capacity of the national economy and communities.

What is the role of Businesses in Biodiversity Conservation?

Considering the crucial role of biodiversity in ensuring sustainable economic gains and human well-being, businesses can contribute significantly to efforts towards biodiversity conservation through:

- **Biodiversity-positive Business Practices:** Biodiversity is increasingly being recognized as an important component of all significant national and global ESG frameworks. There is an urgent need for corporate leaders and managers to prioritize understanding of material risks related to biodiversity and incorporate related strategies into business practices.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Only 2-3% of CSR projects currently contribute directly to biodiversity conservation. A conscious effort is required by CSR managers to support more projects contributing to biodiversity conservation objectives



What the Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration Aims

The Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration being developed by UNGCNI in Chennai is a pioneering initiative aimed at significantly deepening and transforming the private sector's engagements on biodiversity conservation. Through active collaboration and support from visionary business leaders, and government agencies such as the National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards, the Center will enhance action, monitoring, and reporting on biodiversity-positive initiatives through ESG, CSR and corporate philanthropy. UNGCNI is currently in the process of establishing the Centre in Chennai, through an establishment grant from Refex Industries Limited.

Mission of the Centre:

The Centre aims to support businesses and government achieve local, national and global commitments including as part of corporate plans and national commitments made as part of key Multilateral Environmental Agreements including especially United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Objectives of the Centre:

- Serve as a knowledge sharing platform for strategic integration of biodiversity-sensitive practices into business strategy and operations.
- Support corporates to enhance the quality of existing and upcoming compliance/disclosures expected at the national and global levels with regards to biodiversity.
- Support multi-stakeholder dialogue for pragmatic policy directions which contribute to better coherence between business and biodiversity conservation objectives.
- Enable better linkages of private sector action with global and national priorities and targets related to biodiversity conservation.



Join the movement for Biodiversity Conservation

Through the Centre, UNGCNI seeks to actively partner with a wide range of corporate sector agencies on efforts to enhance our rich natural heritage manifested through our biodiversity resources. Corporate partnership is welcomed through:

- Participation in workshops, training and expert lectures organized by the Centre to enable engagement with technical experts and policy makers.
- Sharing their good practices and supporting documentation of such private sector initiatives aligned with CSR, ESG and philanthropy protocols.
- Adoption of technological innovations which can enable effective adoption and upscaling of biodiversity-sensitive business practices.
- Sharing perspectives towards strengthening government policy and guidelines on biodiversity conservation, related to the private sector.
- Contribution to global and national forums such as the Conference of Parties (COPs) and TNFD.
- Funding support for expanding outreach of the Centre.

Kindly reach out to us!

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