

Biodiversity Heritage Sites

- **Definition and Importance:**

- BHS are distinct areas with unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems (terrestrial, coastal, inland waters, and marine).
- Features include high biodiversity with wild/domestic species, endemism, presence of rare/threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, and significant cultural, ethical, or aesthetic values.

- **Legal Framework:**

- **Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002:**

- Authorises State Governments, in consultation with local bodies, to notify areas as BHS in the official gazette.
- Allows State Governments, with Central Government consultation, to frame rules for BHS management and conservation.
- Mandates State Governments to create schemes for compensating or rehabilitating persons economically affected by BHS notifications.

Criteria for Identification of BHS

- **Diverse Habitats:**

- Areas with natural, semi-natural, and man-made habitats that collectively harbour a significant diversity of life forms.

- **Agricultural Biodiversity:**

- Regions significant for domesticated biodiversity and representative agro-ecosystems where traditional agricultural practices sustain biodiversity.

- **Cultural and Ecological Importance:**

- Includes sacred groves, community conserved areas, urban greens, wetlands, and areas that offer refuge or corridors for endangered and endemic species.

- **Research and Preservation:**

- Sites maintained as preservation plots by research wings of Forest Departments and designated Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas.

- **Migratory Species Support:**

- Habitats that support seasonal migrant species for feeding and breeding.

Identification and Declaration Process

- **Community Engagement and Suggestion Invitation:**

- State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) may invite or consider community suggestions for declaring BHSs via community institutions such as BMCs, gram sabhas, and panchayats.
- Extensive dissemination of information on BHS proposals through local media, community meetings, and direct communication with local and governmental bodies.

Regulations and Local Community Impact

- **Restrictions and Community Practices:**

- Establishment of BHS does not impose restrictions on local community practices unless voluntarily adopted.
- There is no change in land ownership.
- The goal is to enhance local community life quality through conservation measures.

Examples and Significance

- **First BHS in India:**

- Nallur Tamarind Grove in Bengaluru, Karnataka, declared in 2007.

- **Current Status:**

- As of April 2024, India has 47 BHS, as reported by the National Biodiversity Authority.

Serial Number in order of notification	Name	Location	State
1	Nallur Tamarind Grove	Bengaluru	Karnataka
2	Hogrekan	Chikmagalur	Karnataka

3	University of Agricultural Sciences, GKV Campus	Bengaluru	Karnataka
4	Ambaraguda	Shimoga	Karnataka
5	Glory of Allapalli	Gadchiroli	Maharashtra
6	Tonglu BHS	Darjeeling	West Bengal
7	Dhotrey BHS	Darjeeling	West Bengal
8	Dialong Village	Tamenglong	Manipur
9	Ameenpur lake	Sangareddy	Telangana
10	Majuli	Majuli	Assam
11	Ghariyal Rehabilitation Centre	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
12	Chilkigarh Kanak Durga	Jhargram	West Bengal
13	Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmieng	Ri-Bhoi	Meghalaya
14	Mandasaru	Kandhamal	Odisha
15	Purvatali Rai	North Goa	Goa
16	Naro Hills	Satna	Madhya Pradesh
17	Patakot	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh
18	Asramam	Kollam	Kerala
19	Bambarde Myristica Swamps	Dodamarg	Maharashtra
20	Ganeshkhind Garden	Pune	Maharashtra
21	Landorkhori	Jalgaon	Maharashtra
22	Schistura Hiranyakeshi	Sindhudurg	Maharashtra
23	Baneswar Shiva Dighi	Coochbehar-II	West Bengal
24	Sacred Grove at Sural Bhattori Monastery	Chamba	Himachal Pradesh
25	High Altitude Meadow @ HUDAN BHATORI	Chamba	Himachal Pradesh
26	Birch-pine Forest Patch @ Nain Gahar	Lahaul & Spiti	Himachal Pradesh
27	Baramura waterfall	Khowai	Tripura
28	Unakoti	Unakoti	Tripura
29	Silachari Caves	Gomati	Tripura

30	Debbari or Chabimura	Gomati	Tripura
31	Betlingshib & its surroundings	North District	Tripura
32	Amarkantak	Anuppur	Madhya Pradesh
33	Hajong Tortoise Lake	Dima Hasao	Assam
34	Borjuli Wild Rice Site	Sonitpur	Assam
35	Arittapatti	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
36	Mahendragiri hill	Gajapati	Odisha
37	State Horticulture Research and Development Station	Nadia	West Bengal
38	Namthing Pokhari	Darjeeling	West Bengal
39	Char Balidanga	Nadia	West Bengal
40	Amkhai Wood Fossil Park	Birbhum	West Bengal
41	Haldia Char Island	Purba Medinipur	West Bengal
42	Birampur-Baguran Jalpai	Purba Medinipur	West Bengal
43	Tungkyong Dho	North Sikkim	Sikkim
44	Gandhamardan Hill	Bolangir and Bargarh	Odisha
45	Gupteswar Forest	Koraput	Odisha
46	Lyago	Hong Nitii	Arunachal Pradesh
47	Thungeey Gonpu (Kamcho Yaam)	Shergaon	Arunachal Pradesh

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