



राष्ट्रीय ज्ञान आयोग  
भारत सरकार  
**National Knowledge Commission**  
**Government of India**

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2007

Dear

The National Knowledge Commission was established in 2005 by the Prime Minister of India to recommend and undertake reforms to make India a knowledge-based society. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) believes that providing access to knowledge is the most fundamental way of increasing the opportunities and reach of individual and groups. In this context, NKC has emphasized the need to launch a series of national web portals which will act as a platform for promoting the right to information, decentralisation, transparency, accountability and people's participation.

NKC letter to the Prime Minister containing recommendations in this regard is attached for your reference. Two national web portals, India Water Portal and India Energy Portal, were launched by the Prime Minister on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.

We are now working towards establishing "The India Biodiversity Portal – a portal for Research, Education, Sustainable Use and Conservation of Biological Diversity of India". The proposed Biodiversity portal will aggregate, organise and present relevant and useful content related to India's biodiversity in a highly uniform, customisable, user friendly and personalised format in local languages. The portal will also provide information related to the best ways to conserve and use biodiversity in a sustainable fashion. In addition, the portal will also help to advance knowledge of India's biodiversity and the emerging field of biodiversity informatics. This portal will serve as a single point of access for consolidated information, applications and resources on the sector and will cater to a wide spectrum of users from citizens, entrepreneurs, small scale industries, students, professionals, researchers and local practitioners.

NKC is proposing to work with Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore as the champion organization for managing the Biodiversity Portal. ATREE will manage the proposed portal in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders from all sectors including Government Agencies/ Departments, NGOs, Research and Scientific Groups, Academic Institutions, Advocacy Groups, Bi-lateral and Multi-lateral Agencies, National and International Donor Agencies, Private Sector, Technology Experts, Educators and eLearning experts.

To initiate the process, NKC proposes to hold a day long workshop in which all the key stakeholders and process drivers will participate. The workshop will aim to discuss the following:

- Ideas and issues related to the design and development of the Biodiversity Portal
- Content and scope of the portal

- Mechanism for day to day updation and management of interactive features
- Management structure and constitution of the core team
- Timelines and responsibility charter
- Any other relevant issues

This will ensure that all the initial ideas and plans are discussed in a wider forum and agreed upon. The venue, date and time of the workshop is as follows:

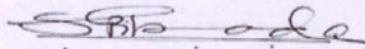
**Venue:** Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Centre for Policy Research, Dharma Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

**Date:** Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2007

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

I request you to confirm your participation/ your organization's with my colleague at NKC and also with ATREE at the earliest and to convey the details of your travel plans. Their contact details are annexed to this letter.

With warm regards,



**Sam Pitroda**  
**Chairman, National Knowledge Commission**

cc. Director, ATREE