

India's First Mangrove Restoration Standards

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Why in News?

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is preparing to introduce India's first-ever national standard dedicated to the restoration of mangrove ecosystems.

Key Feature Highlights

- **Eco-Friendly Sourcing** - The BIS agreed to replace conventional polythene bags with biodegradable or cloth bags for growing and planting mangrove seeds.
- **Livelihood Integration**-The guidelines incorporate planting fruit-bearing trees on the landward side of mangrove zones.
- This creates immediate financial incentives and alternative livelihoods for forest-dependent communities.
- **Scientific Zoning** - The standard focuses on restoring functional micro-ecosystems by planting the right combination of species at specific tidal spots.
- This attracts native fauna like crabs and small fish, driving natural ecological recovery.
- **Carbon Credit Potential** - The guidelines acknowledge and plan to incorporate frameworks suggesting how local communities can economically benefit from carbon credits generated via restored carbon sinks.

The Challenge of a Uniform Standard

- **Geographical Diversity** - A major challenge encountered by the BIS technical committee was designing a single document for a country where mangrove regions differ dramatically in salinity, tidal patterns, geography, and human settlement density.
- **Voluntary Status** - Like all BIS standards, these guidelines will initially

be voluntary.

- However, efforts are underway to urge the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and state-specific mangrove cells to adopt these guidelines as mandatory operational protocols.

Reference

[Times of India | Restoration of Mangrove Ecosystem — Guidelines](#)

