

# Business Standard

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## CMFRI to formulate action plan for sustainable management of marine ecosystem

Kochi: The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) will take a lead role in formulating a national-level action plan for the sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems of the country. As per the direction of the NITI Aayog, the [premier](#) think-tank of the [Government](#) of India, the CMFRI will collaborate with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-[India](#) to draft the management strategies for strengthening the resilience to achieve healthy and productive ocean ecosystems, the institute said in a release here today.

In a combined effort, the NITI Aayog, CMFRI and WWF-[India](#) will jointly organise a two-day brainstorming session of eminent marine biologists, environmentalists, technocrats, fisheries experts across the country and senior officials of fisheries departments from all the maritime States and UTs on July 4 and 5 at the CMFRI, it said.

The draft action plan will be finalised at the end of the meet on July 5.

"The conglomeration of experts from various sectors will identify the ways and means for the protection of ocean wealth in a long-term view at the meet and the draft action plan will be circulated among the stakeholders for feedback", said Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI.

"This will have a composite route map for boosting the contribution of marine and coastal ecosystems to the national and local GDP as an incentive for protection and sustainable management", he said.

According to him, the CMFRI's new step is part of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the UN.

"The broad objective of the action plan is to build strong linkages and relevance of the SDG-14, which is related to conservation of oceans, seas and marine resources.

The action plan will address its targets particularly on the need to develop an integrated approach to 'blue economy' for promoting human well-being and sustainable growth," he said.

Gopalakrishnan said the action plan will help develop guidance on integrating marine and coastal ecosystem values for poverty alleviation and building climate resilience for the coastal areas.

Prof Ramesh Chand, Member of NITI Aayog, Dr Ashok Jain, Advisor to NITI Aayog and Dr Sejal Worah, Programme Director of WWF-[India](#) will lead the discussions at the meet which will be attended by representatives of all the coastal States and UTs along with stakeholders including the concerned central [government](#) ministries, academia, scientists from research institutes, UN bodies and NGOs.