



Biodiversity

Insights

FUTUREScape : THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMPANY

FS/2018

Biodiversity

INTRODUCTION

India is an extremely bio diverse country with a vast variety of plants, animals and marine life.

THIS REPORT IS BASED ON INDIA'S TOP COMPANIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND CSR
A 5 YEAR STUDY OF TOP 200 INDIAN COMPANIES

Insight |

Biodiversity refers to all the variety of life that can be found on Earth as well as to the communities that they form and the habitats in which they live. Since industrial growth is dependent on the ecosystem and often impacts it negatively, corporates need to recognize and address their linkage with biodiversity which is critical to future-proof their business.

While Indian companies recognize biodiversity as a material issue in their operations, they are still at a nascent stage with respect to management of biodiversity. Their approach is reactive and they provides only minimal disclosure on biodiversity. They do not provide disclosure on critical issues such as the impact of their operations on biodiversity and long-term biodiversity goals.

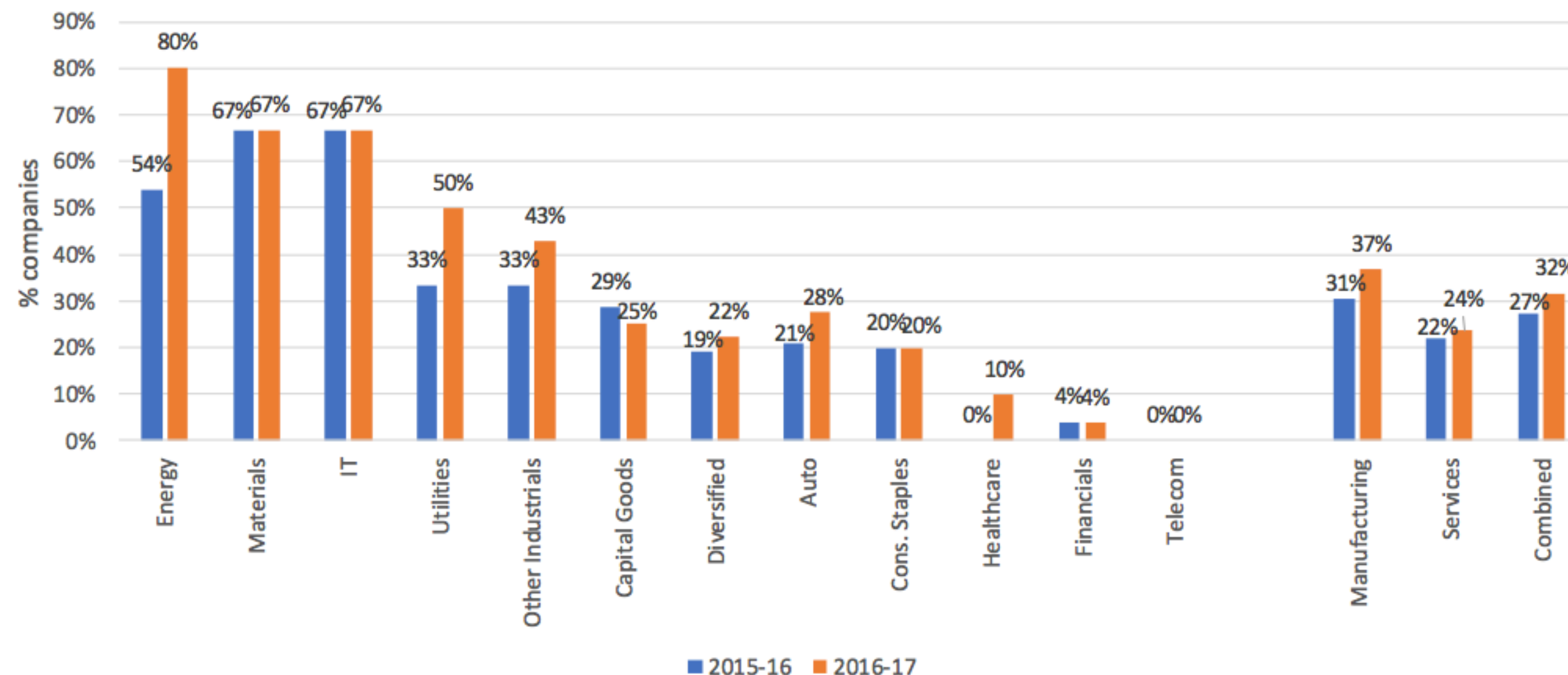
- A-third of the companies disclose the biodiversity measures adopted by them
- Around a-tenth of the companies studied are members of three biodiversity focussed industry associations

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32% of companies address Biodiversity in operations

Percent companies that reported biodiversity policy for operations



Indian companies recognize biodiversity as a material issue in their operations. A-third of the companies disclosed the biodiversity measures adopted by them in their operations in the year.

While the base is small, across most industries, the number of companies has increased compared to the previous year. Manufacturing companies, by virtue of their operations, lead services. Interestingly, two-thirds of IT companies undertake biodiversity measures on their campuses. But, none of the telecom service providers discussed conservation of ecosystems.

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**10% companies collaborate
on biodiversity**

Around a-tenth of the companies studied are members of three biodiversity focussed industry associations – Leaders for Nature, Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative and The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Cross-industry associations	Participating companies
Leaders for Nature, India	Hindustan Unilever, Apollo Tyres, Tata Steel, Tata Power, ACC, Wipro, Ambuja Cements
Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI)	ACC, Adani Ports & SEZ, Ambuja Cements, Dabur, Dalmia Bharat Cement, DCM Shriram, Godrej Industries, IL&FS, ITC, Jain Irrigation Systems, JSW Steel, L'oreal India, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Tata Chemicals, Tata Power, Tata Steel, Vedanta, Wipro
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement

Ecological Security



RF BIJ helps communities secure their local ecosystems, with the larger aim of achieving sustainable development through biodiversity and natural resource management. The Foundation has put in significant effort to encourage ecological sustainability through resource conservation, use of cleaner resources and promotion of biodiversity.

In order to promote biodiversity and preserve the ecology, the Foundation has facilitated the planting of saplings across its operating locations. This effort has resulted in the planting of more than 138 lakh saplings of 66 species in individual and common lands to preserve the environment. Additionally, RIL plant locations have developed 2,075 hectares of green belt areas, in order to maintain biodiversity.



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Biodiversity management follows a multi level approach- I

Manufacturing companies adopt various measures for biodiversity management in operations, viz. identification & assessment, avoidance & minimization and mitigation.

I. **Biodiversity identification and assessment** (also referred as environment impact assessment or vegetation mapping) is the first step in biodiversity management. It involves identification of protected and potential areas of high biodiversity and reviewing impact on biodiversity in a company's areas of operation. At Coal India, vegetation cover mapping of six coal-fields was completed in 2016-17 for assessing the regional impact of coal mining. Reliance industries conducts environment impact assessment for all new and expansion projects and engages external experts for periodic monitoring.

TATA CHEMICALS

Conserve

Protects natural resources and preserves ecological balance through a participatory approach to environmental sustainability.



TCSR D continues its work with Eco Clubs in schools in Mithapur, Babrala and Haldia. Nature conservation projects like Whale Shark conservation, Coral Reef restoration, Mangrove plantation, Biodiversity reserve plantation, Marine Turtle monitoring, Community conserved wetland, monitoring of birdlife, and Organic Waste Converter also continued in Mithapur. All three sites witnessed the land development programme and water management and conservation programmes like Mission Jal and drip irrigation.

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Biodiversity management follows a multi level approach - ii

II. Avoidance and minimization were the least discussed measure in the reports. Some companies however did mention that they do not operate in biodiversity-sensitive areas.

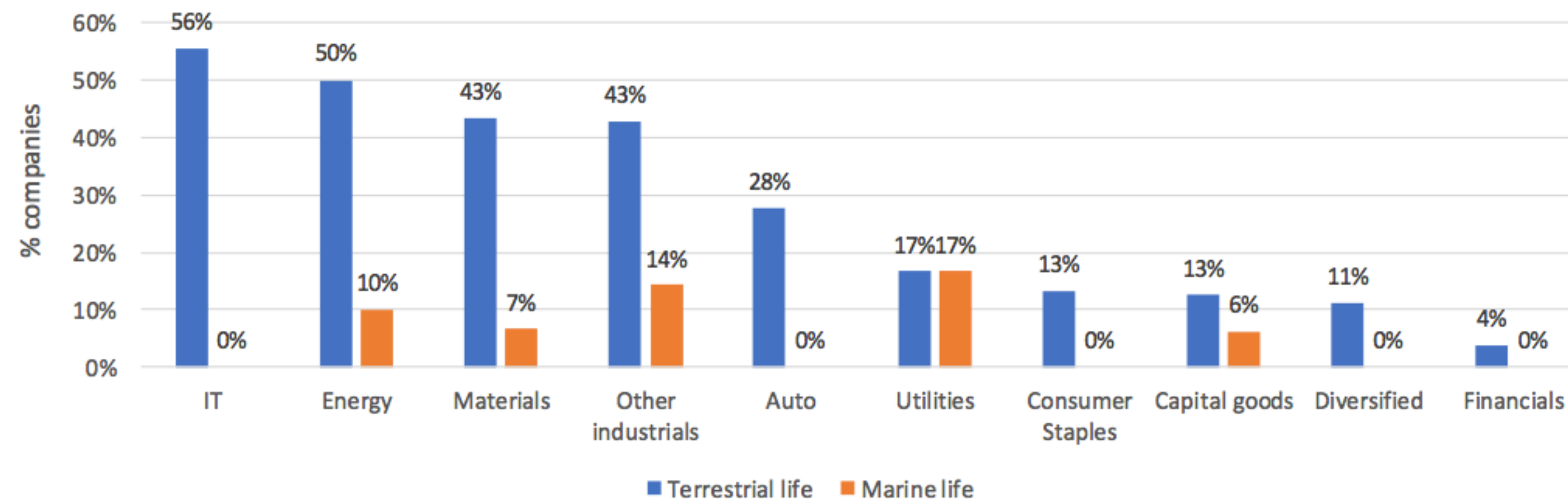
- Following the principle of avoidance and minimization, Power Grid has progressively reduced the involvement of forest in its operations from 6% in 1998 to 2.26% in 2016-17.
- The predominant measures to mitigate the impact of their operations on biodiversity were planting trees and development of wet-land or water bodies in their campuses. These help in carbon sequestration and also support fauna in the region. Both Tata Coffee and Toyota Kirloskar Motors have set aside over 150 acres of land area to develop greenbelt inside the premises. Infosys plants diverse species of trees native to the region to support local fauna and Jindal Steel & Power has established nurseries for in-house development of rare floral species.
- Few companies reported on conservation of wildlife, especially endangered species, and habitat protection. Adani Power regularly monitors two near-threatened bird species at its Mundra operations. Tata Power initiated the Mahseer Conservation Project four decades ago for conserving a freshwater fish species. And Adani Enterprises and Apollo Tyres participate in Mangrove conservation. Tata Power has undertaken various marine life projects to protect the whale shark and coral reef plantation.

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Marine biodiversity has limited takers

Few companies have programs for marine biodiversity

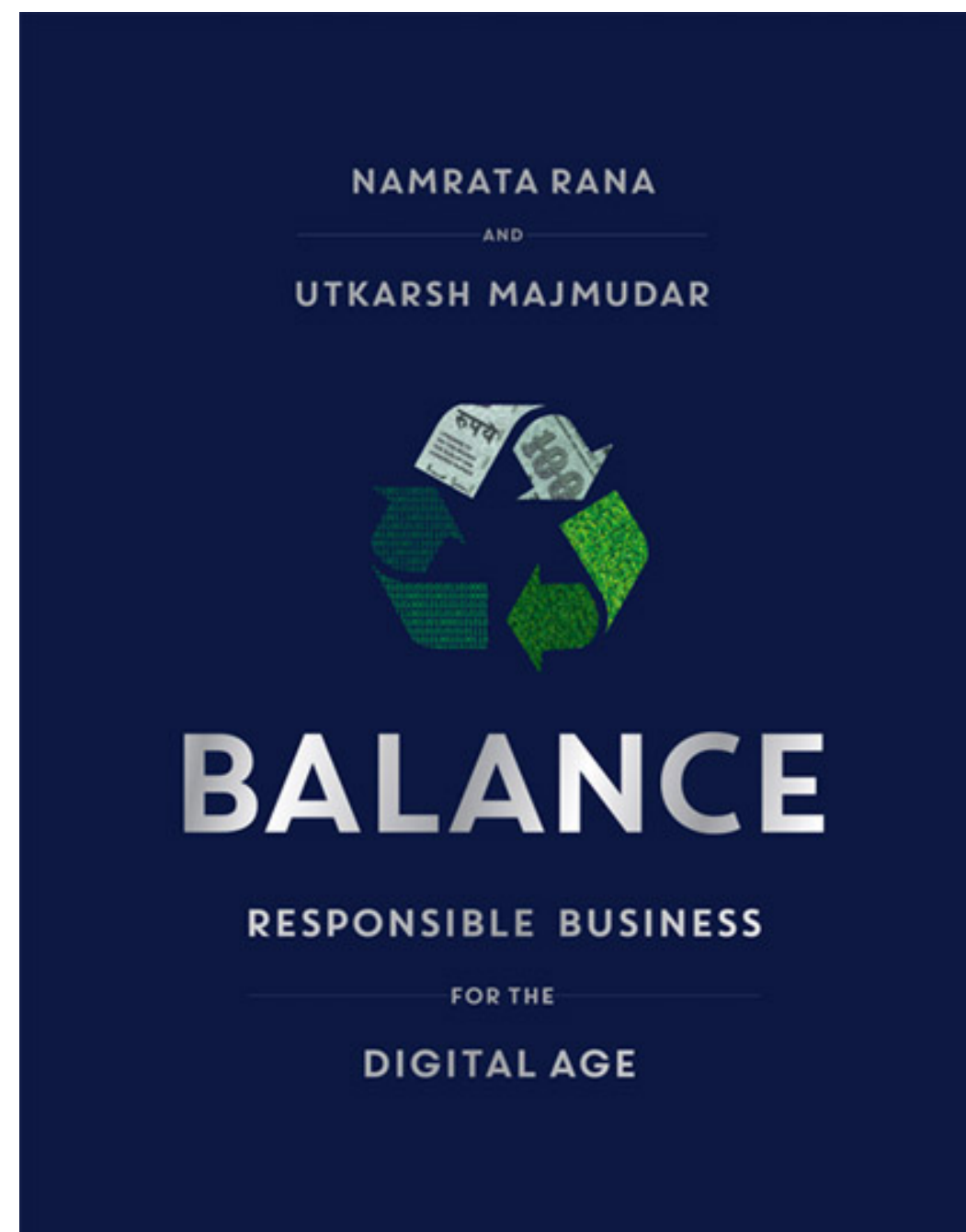


Most of the programs are for terrestrial biodiversity. Less than ten percent companies across sectors discussed projects for conserving marine diversity.

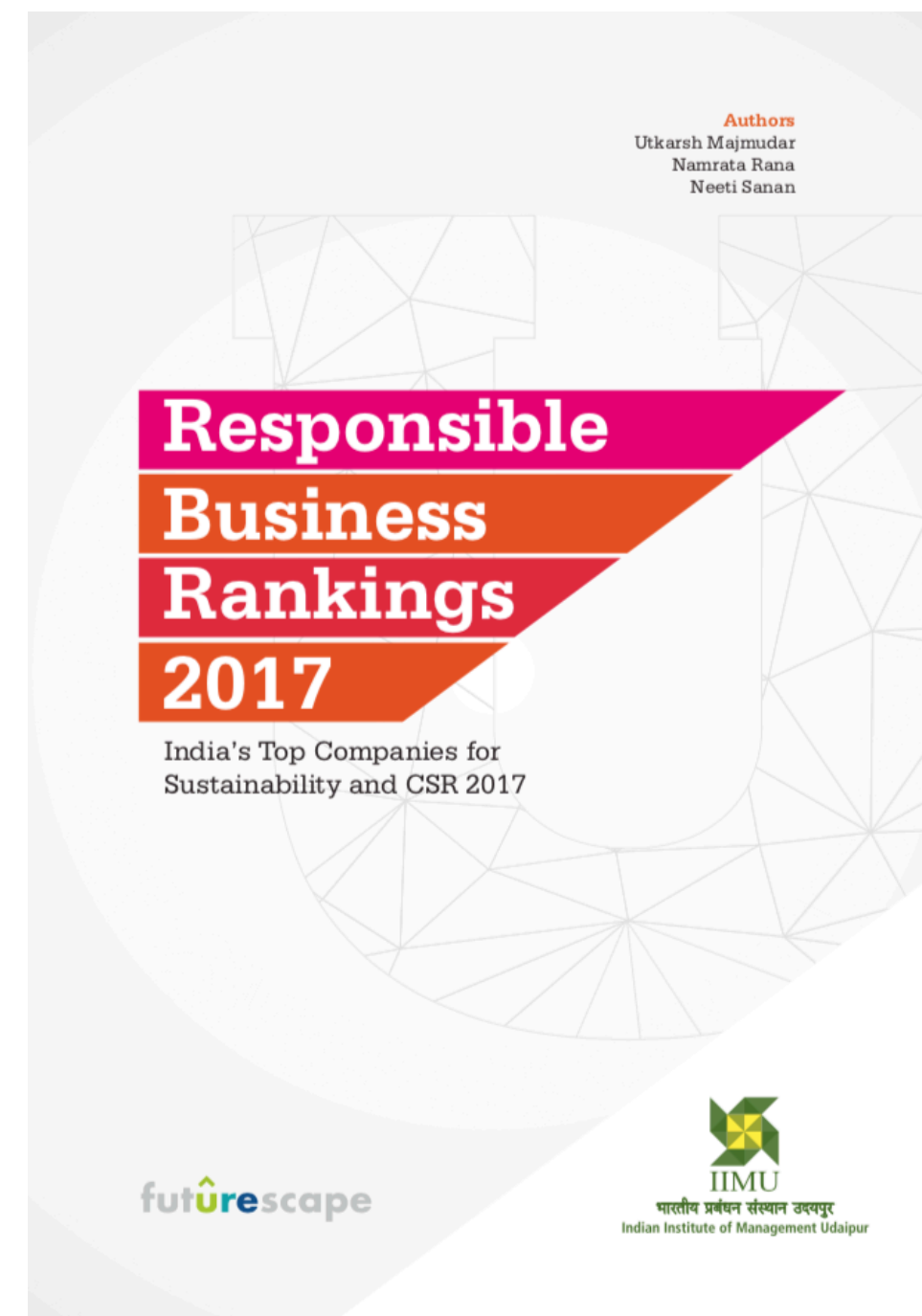
Some notable examples are Petronet LNG, NTPC, Adani Power, Godrej Industries, Adani Ports & SEZ, NLC India and Tata Chemicals. NTPC and Tata Chemicals have marine turtle conservation programmes.

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Level 6, Wing B, Two Horizon Center, Golf Course Road, DLF 5,
Sector 43, Gurugram – 122002, Haryana, INDIA

Email: hello@futurescape.in

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