

Country: India

Date of submission: 26.11.2014

## **Voluntary National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

### **Background**

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. The UNFF11 will, *inter-alia*:

1. Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
2. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of national reports by UNFF Member States on the above items will provide a crucial input to the Secretary-General's analytical, consolidated report to UNFF11 on the progress and trends in the above-mentioned areas, as well as to the Forum's deliberation on the future of the IAF.

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum<sup>1</sup>, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

The UNFF11 reporting format is presented in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of the MDGs.

To the extent possible, the information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data, *inter alia*, from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) – FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources. (United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the Tenth Session -8 to 19 April 2013, E/2013/42 \_E/CN.18/2013/18, Page 6)

## Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national report **electronically (in MS Word) in English, French or Spanish to [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), by 30 September 2014**, at the latest. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical, consolidated Secretary-General's report to UNFF11. Please note that the MS Word file of the reporting format can also be downloaded from the UNFF website at: [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11\\_reporting\\_template.doc](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11_reporting_template.doc)
2. Submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official, signed letter conveying their submission from their respective Ministry, or a note verbale from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
3. Submit any graphic elements included in their national report, as separate electronic files.
4. Check all boxes that apply to questions that have multiple-choice components. In addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers, countries are encouraged to provide brief descriptive narratives, as this provides context and background. Please also note that space provided for the descriptive information is limited to 250 words per question.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents are encouraged to consult with experts from relevant national ministries to complete the reporting format, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. Respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document are consistent with the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and Definitions FRA 2015": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf>

### Abbreviations

C&I	Criteria and Indicators processes
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FRA	FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment
GOF	Global Objectives on Forests
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NFP	National Forest Programme
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SFM	Sustainable forest management
UN	United Nations
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests

## General information

### UNFF national focal point

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### Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	
Organization:	
Phone:	
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Email:	

**PART I:**  
**Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,**  
**including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)**

1. Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:

	New	Amendment of existing
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National forest programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide further information on these and/or other actions:

**1. Present Policy Framework and SFM:**

Indian people have social, cultural, economic and spiritual linkages with the forests since time immemorial, not looking at forests simply as a resource but a basis for sustaining life. The scriptures and folklores have also brought importance of forests to the civilizational ethos. However, scientific forestry begun in India in the Nineteenth Century and the Forest Department with Sir Dietrich Brandis as first Inspector General of Forests was set up as early as 1864. The country is celebrating 150<sup>th</sup> Year of Scientific Management of Forests and a number of events are being organized.

With just 2.4% of the land area, India supports 18% of the global human population as well as cattle population. The country accounts for nearly 7% of the recorded species with around 45,000 plant species and 91,000 species of animals. Despite immense biotic pressure on forests and biodiversity, India has been able to effectively protect its forests. The Forest Survey of India carries out biennial assessment of forest and tree cover of the country. As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2013 published by Forest Survey of India, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 789, 163 sq. km (78.92 million ha) constituting 24.01% of the geographic area. Of this forest cover is 697, 898 sq. km (21.23%) and tree cover is 91, 265 sq. km (2.78%). As per this report, there is an increase of 5871 sq. km in the forest cover of the country as compared to the ISFR, 2011 assessment. India has around 5% of its geographical area under Protected Area Network including 102 National parks and 517 Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Existing policy and legislative framework which includes National Forest Policy 1988, Indian Forest Act 1927, Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Biological Diversity Act, 2002 etc. and rules thereunder for guiding forest conservation and management in the country. India's National Forest Policy, 1988, aims to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance through protecting, conserving and enhancing the existing forests of the country. As early as in the year 1988, the National Forest Policy first time brought out participation of people in protection, improvement and management of forests and also meeting their bonafide needs as the first charge on the forest produce. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 regulates diversion of forest land for non forestry purpose and provides for compensatory afforestation. Safeguarding Rights of Local communities is also addressed in the National Forest Policy as well as in the recently enacted the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Prior consent of local communities/Gram Sabha is mandatory before the

proposals for diversion of forests are approved by the Central Government. The National Forest Policy, 1988, the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Forest Rights Act, 2006 taken together adequately address the policy issues on forestry in the country.

2. **The National Forest Policy, 1988** provides for broad framework on which the country's forests are managed. India's National Forest Policy, 1988 gives overriding priority of managing forests for ecological and environmental security of the country over economic functions. Since India is highly bio- diverse country with variable distribution of forests, the constituent States in the Country have formulated their Forest Policies since 2007 according to their needs. (Rajasthan Forest Policy 2010, J&K Forest Policy 2010, Maharashtra Forest Policy, 2008, Kerala 2007, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar Punjab & Odisha States are reviewing/ preparing their Forest Policies. Other States which have State specific Policies are Haryana (2006), Himachal Pradesh (2005), Madhya Pradesh (2005), Assam 2004, Uttar Pradesh (1998), Andhra Pradesh (2002) and Chhattisgarh 2001.

**National Forest Policy under revision:** The Ministry has constituted a Core Group for review of National Forest Policy, 1988 to assess how far the policy goals have been achieved and how to further strengthen the policy and its implementation.

3. **Green India Mission (2013-14):** India has recently initiated National Mission for Green India (GIM), one of the National Mission under Climate Change, which focuses on multiple functions of forests and their role in ensuring food, water and livelihood security to around one fifth of the poor population of the country. The Mission is envisioned within the National Policy framework that recognizes the synergy between Sustainable Development Strategy and Ecological Sustainability. GIM considers "greening" in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation and takes a holistic approach encompassing entire spectrum of habitat as well socio-economic diversity at a landscape level including improvement in eco-system services such as Carbon sequestration to the tune of 50-60 m tones/annum by 2020.

GIM aims to achieve ecological restoration of vulnerable landscapes of 10 mha through convergence of various cross-sectoral interventions to lead to resurrection of catchment areas of hydrological value, improved wildlife corridor connectivity, extension of efficient fuel and energy devices to 3 million forest dwelling families and livelihoods enhancement with proactive participation of local communities, as the main stakeholders in planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring within the established framework of Joint Forest Management. GIM aims to respond to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures, that would help in

- Enhancing carbon sinks in sustainably managed forests and other ecosystems;
- Adaptation of vulnerable species/ecosystems to the changing climate; and
- Adaptation of forest-dependant communities.

4. The existing legal framework for protection and sustainable management of forests in India has worked quite well as the country despite tremendous pressure on forests has been able to effectively protect its forests. The conservation and sustainable management of forests has been accorded high priority by the Government and also by the Courts. The Supreme Court of India, the highest court of the Country has ,

**National Green Tribunal (NGT):** The National Green Tribunal has been established in the year 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

#### **5. Celebration of International Year of Forests, 2011**

India celebrated International Year of Forests, 2011 for creating awareness at mass level on various aspects of forests, wildlife, livelihood, urban forestry, NTFP, JFMCs and forest conservation and organized the workshop on forest in society, forest in expanding economy and climate change. The main theme of World Environment Day celebration was on forests.

**6. Indian Forest Congress, 2011:** First Indian Forest Congress, 2011 was organized at New Delhi by Ministry of Environment & Forests and Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE). During this occasion, two books '**Voices from the Field**' and '**Status of JFM in India**', were released. Information booklet was also circulated on "Extension Strategies in Forestry Research and Agro-forestry Research". Programmes were organized throughout the year with the State Forest Department, Communities, NGOs for celebration of International Year of Forests, 2011.

**7. Recognition of Forest rights of forest Dwelling communities**

The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwelling Communities (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also known as Forest Rights Act, 2006 was promulgated which aims to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional Forest Dwellers, who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded. This Act has greatly benefitted forest dwelling communities by also empowering them in managing and conserving forest resources. The updated status of recognition of forest rights both for individual and community is available at weblink: <http://www.tribal.nic.in/WriteReadData/CMS/Documents/201410310320057426871MPRforthemonthofSeptember2014.pdf>

**8. Formulation of National Agroforestry Policy, 2014:**

Formulation of National Agroforestry Policy, 2014 is an important step in this direction which will give a thrust to growing of trees on private lands particularly farm lands to enhance rural livelihoods. India also organized World Agroforestry Congress in Delhi in February, 2014. The Country is also taking steps to facilitate Agro forestry and Farm forestry on large scale by taking appropriate measures.

<http://agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/whatsnew/Agroforestry.pdf>

**9. Promotion of Tree outside Forests:** The Government is actively pursuing tree plantation outside forests by farmers and other landowning agencies. Recently it has taken measures to promote tree planting by people including issuance of guidelines for liberalization of regulatory regime on trees grown on Non Forest/ Private lands to encourage/ facilitate people's involvement in tree planting.

**10. Preparation of National REDD+ Policy and Strategy:** Finalization of National REDD+ policy & strategy is underway.

11. Setting up of **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau** in India to control wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife articles.

12. Setting up of **National Tiger Conservation Authority** for strengthening tiger conservation in India.

13. Increasing Public awareness: Programmes for creating and enhancing public awareness for nature and forests are organised regularly. States and Central Government celebrate **Van Mahotsava** (Festival of Forests) during rainy season July –August for large scale tree plantation involving people.

14. Strengthening legal framework and enhancing the penalties in connection with offences in relevant Acts.

15. India is signatory to CITES and other International Conventions on illegal trade in wildlife articles and illegal timber.

**16. CoP 11 of CBD:** India hosted CoP 11 of Convention on Biodiversity in India in October, 2012 at Hyderabad. India has hosted a number of programmes to highlight Country biodiversity and its sustainable use

To what extent have these actions been effective in advancing implementation of the Forest Instrument?

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of effective actions in support of the Forest Instrument and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. India organised one National and a series of Regional workshops on Forest Instrument for stakeholders' awareness and effective implementation of suitable policy and measures of FI in India.
2. A Central Sponsored Scheme namely "Intensification of Forest Management" is being implemented by the Ministry of environment & Forests to support States and Union Territories in forest protection, consolidation, control of forest fires, invasive species etc. The Scheme addresses a number of policy measures of NLBI.
3. New National Working Plan Code, 2014 was formulated to take into account appropriate provisions of FI in preparation of Forest working Plans.
4. A series of Capacity Building Programmes were organized on REDD+ which can be seen at
  - i. <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/REDD-Plus-Proceedings-Banglore-Workshop-Jan-13.pdf>
  - ii. <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/REDD-Plus-Proceedings-Nagaland-Workshop-Feb-13.pdf>
  - iii. <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/REDD-Plus-Proceedings-Agra-Workshop-Feb-13.pdf>
  - iv. <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/REDD-Plus-Proceedings-Workshop-Bhopal-Nov-12.pdf>
  - v. <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/Proceedings-REDD+Workshop-29-Nov-2012.pdf>
  - vi. [http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/redd-bk2\\_0.pdf](http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/redd-bk2_0.pdf)
  - vii. [http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/redd-bk3\\_0.pdf](http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/redd-bk3_0.pdf)
  - viii. <http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20felling%20and%20transit%20regulations%20for%20tree%20species%20grown%20on%20Non-forest%20or%20private%20lands%2018.11.2014.pdf>
  - ix. [http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/Draft%20National%20REDD%2B%20Policy%20and%20Strategy%202014\\_0.pdf](http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/Draft%20National%20REDD%2B%20Policy%20and%20Strategy%202014_0.pdf)
  - x. <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/Panoramic%20view%20of%20India's%20Presidency%20of%20CoP%20to%20CBD%202012-2014.pdf>
  - xi. [http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/press-releases/report\\_PMO\\_English.pdf](http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/press-releases/report_PMO_English.pdf)
  - xii. Proceedings on Workshops on Non Legally Binding Instrument on Forests
    - a. <http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/Regional%20Workshop%20Chandigarh%20-%20Report.pdf>
  - xiii. [http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/Regional%20Workshop%20-%20Chennai%20-%20Report\\_1.pdf](http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/Regional%20Workshop%20-%20Chennai%20-%20Report_1.pdf)
  - xiv. Indian Silviculture Conference is being organized by Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education during November- 24-28, 2014 with focus on silviculture, NTFPs, Bamboo, Medicinal Plants etc.

**2. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?**

- ☐ New legislation
- ☐ Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- ☐ Export controls
- ☐ Import controls
- ☐ Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships. Please list below:

1.Setting up of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in India to control wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife articles.  
 2.Setting up of National Tiger Conservation Authority  
 3. Increasing Public awareness through various programmes / activities of Forest departments across the country.

Please provide 2-3 examples and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. 1.National Tiger Conservation authority web link : <http://projecttiger.nic.in/>  
 2.Central zoo authority web link: [cza.nic.in](http://cza.nic.in)  
 3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau web link: <http://wccb.gov.in/>

**3 Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?**

- ☐ Forests/SFM are now included in national development plans/strategies
- ☐ Forests/SFM now have a higher priority in national development plans/strategies
- ☐ The contribution of forests/SFM to poverty eradication, food security, water security, employment is an ongoing subject of discussion
- ☐ Other, please list below:

The Ministry approved and circulated National Working Plan Code-2014 to all States/UTs Forest Departments for its implementation in the country w.e.f. 1st April, 2014. <http://envfor.nic.in/division/activities>.

**National Working Plan Code 2014**

To sustainably manage, conserve and utilize the forest resources and to bring uniformity in forest management planning across the country, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India adopted a uniform code, the National Working Plan Code in 2004. However, in recent years there has been a paradigm shift in the approach to the forestry sector nationally and internationally. The focus has shifted to environmental stability, biodiversity monitoring and management, restoration of ecological balance of the disturbed areas, protective functions of the forest resources and other socio - economic benefits based on non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

The concept of sustainability in forest management thus implies not only sustainability of productive functions but also environmental functions (soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration etc.) and socio-economic benefits (meeting livelihood and basic needs) to forest dwellers and other forest dependent communities. Involvement of forest fringe communities in the protection and management of forest resources through micro - plans and eco - development plans has become imperative and must find linkages to the working plan. Provisions have thus been made to integrate aspects of forest management, which are considered important for assessing sustainability, accompanied by a set of related



quantitative, qualitative or descriptive attributes. These attributes when measured or assessed periodically, indicate the direction of change for each aspect of sustainable management of forests.

In the light of the above the Government revised the National Working Plan Code - 2004 and brought out new updated "National Working Plan Code – 2014" for sustainable management of forests and biodiversity in India, which is effective from 01/04/ 2014 (<http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/National%20Working%20Plan%20Code%202014.pdf>).

**The Green India Mission (GIM): (Details in 1 above).**

The GIM mission will involve grassroots-level organizations including gram sabhas (village councils) and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). Apart from afforestation, the mission will also focus on adaptation of forest-dependent communities. (<http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/publicinformation/GIM%20presentation%20Feb%2022%202011.pdf>).

**Managing forest and forest products for livelihood support and economic growth**

Almost 100 million forest dwellers are living in and around forests in India another 300 million depend on forests directly for livelihood. In view of the importance of forestry in livelihood support and economic growth of people ICFRE is focusing on agro forestry, chemistry of forest products for value addition, utilization of forest invasive species, wood science technologies, valuation of forest ecosystems, sustainable management of fringe forest and tree resource management for species like Bamboo, Rattan and Junipers etc for enhancement of livelihoods. Assessing and enhancing the role of NTFP for poverty alleviation an important thrust area of ICFRE, where research is focusing on processing technologies, value additions, sustainable harvesting, resource management and marketing of NTFPs. Research and development for inventorization of multipurpose trees and shrubs for domestication and introduction in agro-forestry for socio-economic up-liftment of rural poor is an important thrust area also.

**Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management - Country Partnership Programme (SLEM-CPP)**

The SLEM project under the country partnership programme of GEF has provided a platform for management of soil, water and other natural resources of enhancing land productivity and improving livelihood at landscape level while maintaining environmental integrity. The project has also enhanced inter-sectoral convergence.

Have these steps resulted in:

- ☐ More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities
- ☐ More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities
- ☐ Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development
- ☐ Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- ☐ Other, please list below:

With view to regulate the activities related to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Government of India has created a national level SFM cell in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Few regional SFM cells have been established in the forest headquarters of concerned State Forest Departments.

The National Task Force on Sustainable Forest Management appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, recommended the creation of a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Cell in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It was also recommended to create similar SFM Cells in each of the States and Union Territories. SFM Cell under Survey & Utilization Division of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India has been constituted with the detailed Terms of Reference ([www.moef.nic.in/OutcomeBudget/2009-10/chapter\\_iv\\_v.doc](http://www.moef.nic.in/OutcomeBudget/2009-10/chapter_iv_v.doc)).

All India coordinated Research Programme on Forests and Climate Change has been

launched in ICFRE for undertaking studies to improve understanding of the impact of Climate change on forest eco-systems. ICFRE plays a vital role in development of adaptation and mitigation strategies to combat climate change. ICFRE also conducts research for the development of agro-forestry models with respect to different agro-ecological zones of the country. Web link <http://www.icfre.gov.in/>

Please describe these steps, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Under the Green India Mission it has been targeted to improve the livelihoods of about 300 million households living in and around forest areas. (<http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/publicinformation/GIM%20presentation%20Feb%2022%202011.pdf>)

National Bamboo Mission with a key element of the Research and Development for sustainable development and new Bamboo Agri-forestry technique for technology. The physical targets achieved from the year 2006-07 to 2013-14 can be accessed from the website - <http://nbm.nic.in/PDF/Targets&Achievements.pdf>.

- 4 Since 2007, has your government taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify which ministries and/or departments are involved and how effective these measures have been in implementing SFM:

**National Afforestation Programme:**

National Afforestation Programme is implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change for increasing the forest & tree cover, improvement of quality of forests and enhancing the livelihoods of forest dwelling/ dependent communities. So far more than 1,00,000 Joint Forest management Committees have been constituted which are managing 22 million ha of forests. The State Forest Departments provide technical training to local communities and facilitate in managing, protecting and sharing of usufructs from such forests. web link: [http://envfor.nic.in/naeb/sch/NAP\\_glance.htm](http://envfor.nic.in/naeb/sch/NAP_glance.htm)

**National Bamboo Mission**

With a view to harness the potential of bamboo crop, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in which National Bamboo Mission (NBM) is being implemented as a sub scheme. The Mission envisages promoting holistic growth of bamboo sector by adopting area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing. Under the Mission, steps have been taken to increase the availability of quality planting material by supporting the setting up of new nurseries and strengthening of existing ones. To address forward integration, the Mission is taking steps to strengthen marketing of bamboo products, especially those of handicraft items (<http://nbm.nic.in/PDF/Targets&Achievements.pdf>).

**Green India Mission (details in Q.1)**

Under the Green India Mission it has been targeted to improve the livelihoods of about 300 million households living in and around forest areas. (<http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/publicinformation/GIM%20presentation%20Feb%2022%202011.pdf>)

**Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce:**

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently launched a scheme of MSP of MFP for providing remunerative prices to primary collectors of Minor Forest produce.

#### **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**

The Ministry promotes alternative sources of energy including biomass based energy to reduce degradation of forests due to removal of firewood/ fuelwood and helps improving the health of women with the use of clean energy.

#### **Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda , Yoga & Naturopathy , Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy**

National Medicinal Plant Board under the Department of AYUSH works for conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants of India guiding local people, communities, farmers in raising medicinal plants, supporting regeneration and non destructive collection of medicinal plants from forest areas and primary processing to maintain quality and reducing wastage.  
<http://nmpb.nic.in/>

#### **Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development**

Integrated Watershed Management Programme works in close coordination with the Forest Departments for improving watershed through afforestation, restoration and soil and water conservation measures leading to improvement of Ecosystem Services and soil and water regime. [http://dolr.nic.in/dolr/iwmp\\_main.asp](http://dolr.nic.in/dolr/iwmp_main.asp)

#### **Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme**

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA) also has components on drought proofing which provides for reclamation of degraded lands including afforestation. Weblink: <http://www.nrega.nic.in/netnrega/home.aspx>

#### **National Rural Livelihood Mission**

The mission being implemented by Ministry of Rural development focuses on improving livelihoods of rural communities which have significant impact on SFM.  
<http://aajeevika.gov.in/>

**National Agroforestry Policy, 2014 and National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation** also bring together Agriculture and Forestry Sector which will strengthen SFM by reducing pressure on forests.

In addition, there are many other Programmes / schemes of State Governments which have multi-sectoral approach to strengthen SFM.

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. Forestry interventions are in the Agriculture through Agroforestry and Farm forestry are being promoted with the promulgation of National Agroforestry Policy, 2014.
2. National Medicinal Plant Board has strong linkages with forestry sector and promotes conservation of medicinal plants including programmes on ex situ and in situ propagation of rare and endangered species.
3. The Ministry of Water Resources is also working in coordination with Forestry agencies for improved water management.

**5 Does your government's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme contain time-bound and quantified targets related to the forest area?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides for bringing one third of the geographical area of the country under forest and tree cover. Though it requires huge efforts and resources, the country is gradually inching towards this ambitious national target. There have been gradual increase in forest and tree cover of the country in last 20 years.

National Afforestation Programme implemented by National Afforestation and Eco-restoration Board provides for annual targets for afforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests.

Under the Green India Mission targets have been set to increase forest/tree cover on 5 million ha of forest/non-forest lands and improved quality of forest cover on another 5 million ha (a total of 10 million ha); to improve ecosystem services including biodiversity, hydrological services and carbon sequestration as a result of treatment of 10 million ha; and to enhanced annual CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration of 50-60 million ton by the year 2020. (<http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/GIM%20presentation%20Feb%2022%202011.pdf>).

The SLEM-CPP project website link <http://slem-cpp.icfre.gov.in/>

**6. Since 2007, what activities has your government undertaken to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests? Please specify:**

☐ Afforestation

Since 2007, Government has undertaken afforestation/tree plantation under CSS- National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Twenty Point Programme on an area of **14130355 hectares** of land (approx.) (14.1 m ha) till date. About 1,18,213 JFMCs across 29 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are working for protection and conservation of 22.94 million ha of forests in the country.

State Forest departments all over the country celebrate 'Van Mahotsav – a massive drive for the plantation activities' in the month of July every year.

Some of the States e.g. Madhya Pradesh has established a forest wing in Capital Project Administration, under Housing & Environment Department to facilitate planned development, beautification and conservation of environment of the State Capital (<http://www.cpamp.nic.in/>).

☐ Reforestation

Coal India Limited & its subsidiaries raised plantations in 1576365 ha in 2010-11; 2072400 ha in 2011-12; and 1586163

☐ Restoration

Introduction or enforcement of:

- ☐ Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation and or reforestation
- ☐ New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation and/or reforestation
- ☐ New legislation and actions aimed at conservation and protection of forests
- ☐ Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- ☐ Subsidies for forest protection
- ☐ Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- ☐ Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- ☐ Other, please list below:

Various States under the Indian Union are making appropriate amendments/ new legislations to address specific forest related issues/ problems. The Central Government provides appropriate support to States in technical as well as policy- legal matters.

Please describe, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The 'Forest' was originally placed in the State List. The Forty-second Amendment to the Constitution of India transferred the subject from the State List to the Concurrent List. Now the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose requires clearance from Government of India. This has substantially checked the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. The provisions for compensatory plantation, double the forest area degraded, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is one of the most important conditions stipulated by the Central Government while approving proposals for de-reservation or diversion of forest land for non-forest uses.

**7. What types of mechanisms are currently in place for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation?**

- ☐ Roundtables/committees have been established which meet regularly
- ☐ Forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an *ad hoc* basis as issues affecting them arise
- ☐ Other, please list below:

All the concerned Ministries; State Forest Departments; Forestry Institutions; Forest based industries; Media; Panchayat; Forest User Groups; other stakeholders (<http://envfor.nic.in/content/review-national-forest-policy-1998-inviting-comments-regarding>).

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

General Public ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

**National programme/mission** (Example Green India Mission)

Draft document uploaded on website for comments. The document translated in 11 languages. Regional Consultations over a month and a half that had attended by the Minister and the team attended by the Minister and the team. Over 1450 people participated in the consultations.

Thousands of mails received – from Panchayats, community groups, academia, researchers, schools, government agencies, private sector, media and concerned citizens

<http://envfor.nic.in/content/review-national-forest-policy-1998-inviting-comments-regarding>

**Community participation**

The people's participation has significantly increased following the Joint Forest Management Resolution. The institutional funding has been extended from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change programme on National Afforestation and externally-aided forestry projects to involve local community for the jointly manage Government owned forests. National Afforestation Programmes (NAP) is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized setup of the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level with a prime objective to operationalize FDAs in all 811 forest divisions of the country. In order to give a fillip to JFM, a component, "Strengthening of Joint Forest Management", was added in NAP in 2004, with a view to constitute JFMCs in all 1.73 lakh forest fringe villages in the country and manage these forests through participatory micro-plans (<http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/OPERATIONALGUIDELINES.pdf>).

**8. To what extent do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly-owned forests?**

- ☐ Completely  
☐ Partially  
☐ None  
☐ Not applicable

Please provide 2-3 examples how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The National Forest Policy (NFP) of 1988 envisages the involvement of communities in management of forests. Following the NFP the Joint Forest Management (JFM) resolution formalized and is furthering the concept of Joint Forest Management (JFM), with an objective to institutionalize involvement of local communities for the management of forests. In order to strengthen Joint Forest Management various guidelines were issued at the National level and Various States have further enacted resolutions on JFM. The most recent resolution passed by the majority of the States are in the year 2011.

The dependency of community living in and around forest area are high in India. The involvement of local community through a JFM arrangement, specifically the Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) of community in protection and development of forest. The mechanism evolved involve as much as possible the local community in Eco-tourism activity so that they can earn for livelihood vis-à-vis protect the forest/environment.

<http://envfor.nic.in/division/introduction-2>

**Recognition of Forest rights of forest Dwelling communities**

The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwelling Communities (Recognition of

Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also known as Forest Rights Act, 2006 was promulgated which aims to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional Forest Dwellers, who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded. This Act has greatly benefitted forest dwelling communities by also empowering them in managing and conserving forest resources. The updated status of recognition of forest rights both for individual and community is available at weblink: <http://www.tribal.nic.in/WriteReadData/CMS/Documents/201410310320057426871MPRforthemonthofSeptember2014.pdf>

**9. Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- ☐ 2-5 years  
☐ 5-10 years  
☐ 10-20 years  
☐ Other, please specify:

The Planning Commission of India has been coordinating at the national level for allocation of planned funds to various sectors. The schemes for afforestation, regenerations, forest management under Central Sector Assistance and Centrally Sponsored Scheme are implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change which include various National Programmes like National Afforestation Programme, Compensatory afforestation against diversion of forest lands, Green India Mission, National Bamboo Mission, Intensification of Forest Management Scheme, Integrated Watershed Management Scheme, Grants under Thirteenth Finance Commission.

The States also have their own forestry programmes which add to the investment in the forestry sector.

These strategies take into account:

- ☐ Domestic public funding  
☐ Domestic private funding  
☐ Public international (including ODA and REDD+)  
☐ External private funding

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The National Mission for a Green India, envisages an expenditure of Rs.13,000 crore in the 12th five-year plan period ending in March 2017, and a total cost of Rs.46,000 crore over the next 10 years (<http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/GIM%20presentation%20Feb%2022%202011.pdf>).

USAID| India Forest PLUS programme is a bilateral agreement for technical exchange programme in the forestry sector and REDD+ preparedness.

**10 Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services (PES) provided by forests?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify, and, if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:



- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed protection/water supply | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon storage (including REDD+)  | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature conservation               | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please list below:         | USD |

Presently, there is no mechanism in place for Payment for Ecosystem Services provided by forests. Though the services provided by forests are recognised and sometimes evaluated but the contribution in monetary term has not been realised so far.

However, in respect of diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes, the Net Present Value (NPV) , (a monetised measure of ecological and environmental services provided by the forests) is realised from project proponent/ agency requiring forest lands for their uses.

Please provide 2-3 examples of PES and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The Thirteenth Finance Commission (TFC) of India has recommended **Forest Grants** to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crores ( about 835 million USD) to the States for a five year period starting from the year 2010-11 based on the extent of forest cover and to partly meet their requirement for implementing SFM. The Forest Grants are made with the objectives to augment financial resources for preservation of forests, reverse decline in the quantum and quality of area under forests, and to provide fiscal resources by which the state can enable alternative economic activities as a substitute for economic constraints imposed by forest cover.

**11. Since 2007, has your government been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM? If yes, please specify sources:**

	2007	2013
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic public funding	USD 125 m	USD 166 m
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding	USD N.A.	USD N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/> Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+)	USD	USD 28* m (for 5 Years under USAID)
<input type="checkbox"/> External private funding	USD N.A.	USD N.A.

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds:

1. In the country, the funding in the forestry sector comes mainly from the Government as over 96% forests are under public ownership. The Central Governments as well as provincial governments provide funds to the forestry sector. Funding to the forestry sector remains around 0.5 % of GDP. The figure given above represents the financial support by the Central Ministry only.
2. There are competing demands for domestic funding in view of greater emphasis on social sector schemes.
3. Contribution of forests to the livelihoods and ecosystem services is not realistically reflected in national economy hence does not get desired emphasis in terms of funding.

**12. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?**

- ☐ Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- ☐ Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- ☐ Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
- ☐ Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in



forests)

- ☐ Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to SFM
- ☐ Other; please list below:

The mechanism of seeking Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Forestry is under consideration. Private Sector is seen as a major stakeholder in greening under Corporate Social Responsibility.

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Four distinct phases that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has gone through in the country. The driving force for the first phase were [charity](#) and [philanthropy](#); while in the second phase, during the independence movement, there was increased stress on Indian Industrialists to demonstrate their dedication towards the progress of the society. The third phase of CSR (1960–80) had its relation to the element of "mixed economy", emergence of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and laws relating labour and environmental standards. The forth and current phase being integration into "sustainable business strategy". Primary issues that Indian CSR focuses on today are: environmental pollution, employee engagement, biodiversity protection, and electricity generation.

The Government is considering to bring private sectors contribution in addressing drivers of forest degradation and improving quality of forest cover for meeting domestic requirement of forest products and enhanced ecosystem services.

**13. Is your government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?**

- ☐ Yes      ☐ No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

- ☐ Government (SAARC – Forestry Center, Thimphu, Bhutan)
- ☐ Intergovernmental Organization
- ☐ Private sector/philanthropy
- ☐ NGOs
- ☐ Others

Type of cooperation:

- ☐ North-South
- ☐ South-South
- ☐ Technical
- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- ☐ Forests and climate change
- ☐ Forest biodiversity
- ☐ Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- ☐ Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- ☐ Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- ☐ Scientific cooperation
- ☐ Forest monitoring/data collection
- ☐ Technology transfer and capacity development
- ☐ Other, please list below:

India has multilateral , bilateral and regional cooperation on technical and financial aspects of forestry which cover capacity building, improving quality of forest resources, NTFPs management, value addition for livelihoods etc.

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. **Capacity Development for Forest Management & Training of Personnel:** The component is an externally aided component aimed at improving training of frontline forestry force. The total cost of the component is Rs. 225.00 Crore for a period of five years is funded by the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). The loan component is of Rs.206.00 Crore and the rest is Central Plan component. The Project is being implemented in 26 State Forest Training Institutes (SFTIs) of thirteen States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.
2. **JICA assisted Afforestation Projects.** The projects help for promoting afforestation, biodiversity conservation, rehabilitation of degraded forest areas, community development and institutional capacity development with the aim to increase forest and tree cover as well as to augment availability of fuel wood and fodder, improve livelihood opportunities and quality of life of the villagers adjoining forests, strengthening Joint Forest Management (JFM) institutions to ensure people's participation in accordance to the objectives envisaged in various projects under implementation. These projects also help in livelihood activities through convergence with other line departments and other govt. schemes with a view to augment the income of the people, help in better living conditions and employment generation as well as addressing the sustainability in perpetuity once the funding ceases to flow due to completion of the project.
3. **USAID|India Forest PLUS Program:** Government of India & USA signed a Five Year bilateral agreement namely USAID|India Forest PLUS (partnership in Landuse Science Program) with USA contribution of 28 million USD and India's contribution of 9 million USD to promote scientific and technical collaboration and exchange between India and U.S. USAID in the forestry sector. The 5 year Program has started in 2010. The program aims to reduce emissions and enhance carbon sequestration through India's forests by taking REDD+ actions to scale. USAID will work in close collaboration with the Government of India's Ministry of Environment and Forests, local governments, and local communities. USAID will work with these stakeholders to adapt cutting-edge innovations and practices in India, and build the capacity of local stakeholders to better manage India's forest resources. These management practices will demonstrate how India can improve the health and productivity of select forests to reduce carbon emissions.
4. GEF is assisting in Biodiversity Conservation Programmes and contributing to SFM.

Please list the key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:

The Forestry Sector is facing following challenges in implementing SFM:

1. India has 2.4 % of geographical area of the World which supports 17% of global human population and 18% of cattle population.
2. India's forests covering 69 mha, which constitute around 21% of the geographical area of the country thus face heavy pressure of human and livestock population.
3. About 69% of population lives in rural areas and it is estimated that about 200 million people are living in around forests are dependent on varying degree on forests for various needs.
4. Out of 530 million livestock, around 190 million are fully dependent on forests for grazing/ fodder requirements.
5. Fuelwood is main source of energy for cooking and heating in cold mountainous regions of the country. Villagers mainly women collect fuelwood for daily use as well as for trade in the market.

6. There is also unsustainable harvesting of NTFPs in some forests
7. Regeneration and productivity of forests is low in view of the biotic pressure and insufficient inputs. The situation is being addressed through a number of measures.

14. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

1. Forest inventory systems (**Forest Survey of India – FSI**)
2. Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques (**Indian Council for Forestry Research & Education – ICFRE**)
3. Training of Foresters- **Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy**, Dehradun & **Central Academy of State Forest Service**.
4. Research and training wildlife conservation and Protected Area Management- **Wildlife Institute of India**
5. Wood production for energy (**National Afforestation & Eco-development Board – NAEB**)
6. Wood processing technology (**Indian Institute of Wood Science & Technology – IWST**) and **Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI)**, Bangalore
7. Waste reduction and recycling (**National Engineering & Environment Research Institute – NEERI**; **Indian Institute of Science - IISc**)
8. Capacity building in Sustainable Forest Management: **Indian Institute of Forest Management**, Bhopal
9. Environment Education and Extension- **Centre for Environment Education (CEE)**
10. Taxonomic Survey & documentation of fauna: **Zoological Survey of India**
11. Taxonomic Survey of Flora: Survey: **Botanical Survey of India**
12. Promoting Research and policy analysis in environment, Forest, Climate change by NGOs: **The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI)**, Centre for Science & Environment (CSE), **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & Environment (ATREE)**

Other, please list below:

1. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal has set up a Centre for SFM & Forest Certification to generate knowledge, disseminate knowledge through publications and build capacity of policy makers, scientists and the practitioner's on the subject SFM including NLBI under UNFF.
2. Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) is the apex forestry research organizations with a number of regional institutes working on different aspects of SFM.
3. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is a premier research institution in the various aspects of wildlife conservation.

Are these programs directed at:

- ☐ Forest owners
- ☐ Timber companies/forest products industry
- ☐ State agencies
- ☐ Local communities
- ☐ Indigenous communities

- ☐ NGOs  
☐ General public

Since 2007, has funding for forest-related science and research increased?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

#### **Forestry Research, Education and Extension**

Though the increase has been nominal in real terms. Still there is high priority for forestry research and extension. ICFRE focuses on generation, preservation and promotion of knowledge, technological solution for issues related to forest, environment and sustainable management of Forests. Forestry extension programs of ICFRE reach out to stakeholders at various levels for adoption of improved forest practices and technologies which is showcased through 26 Van Vigyan Kendras (VVKs) and nine Demo Villages which are functioning effectively in dissemination of knowledge and capacity building. ICFRE also focuses on developing a pool of human resource in the field of forestry and provide policy support to the MoEF&CC. It supports forestry education & policy research to meet emerging challenges. A National Forestry Library and Information Center (NFLIC) in ICFRE is an important resources center for forestry in India.

Web link: <http://www.icfre.gov.in/>

#### **15. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?**

- ☐ Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio  
☐ Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.  
☐ Meetings with the general public  
☐ Art events/Exhibitions  
☐ Activities in support of the International Day of Forests  
☐ Others

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Observation of various days dedicated to Environment and Forests

**Celebration of World Environment Day** – 5<sup>th</sup> June (<http://envfor.nic.in/content/think-eat-save-moef-observes-world-environment-day>)

**March 21 International Day on Forests** – Awareness creation for the planting of trees and highlighting the urgency to increase the green cover.

**Van Mahotsava** (Festival of Forests): with the onset of Monsoon in India in July every year, a series of tree plantation programmes are organized in the country for popularizing, educating and involving people in tree plantation.

**October 1-7 Wildlife Week** -Celebrate this week by building awareness on the importance of preservation of our wildlife.

**April 18 World Heritage Day** - Environment includes not just the natural surroundings but also the manmade ones.

Other important events connected to environment & forests are observed in the country on designated days. On many official functions tree saplings are distributed and often exchanged as gifts & presentations.

**Science Express on Biodiversity:**

With United Nations declaration of the current decade (2011-2020) as Decade on Biodiversity and India holding Chair of the Conference of Parties (COP 11) to Convention of Biological Diversity during 2012, Science Express was redesigned on the theme 'Biodiversity' and since 2012 it has been running as Science Express Biodiversity Special (SEBS). The state-of-the-art exhibition aboard SEBS aims to create wide-spread awareness on the unique biodiversity of India, Climate Change, Water, Energy Conservation and related issues among various sections of the society, especially students. Of the 16 coaches of the SEBS, 8 coaches are solely dedicated to showcasing the myriad biodiversity spread across the bio- geographical zones of India like Trans-Himalaya & Himalaya, the Gangetic Plain, North-East India, the Western Ghats, the Indian Deserts, the Semi-Arid Zone, the Deccan Peninsula and the Coasts and the Islands. The exhibition also covers various other facets like marine, coastal, forest, microbial, agro biodiversity and their linkage with livelihoods besides challenges of conservation. In rest of the rake, the exhibition includes themes on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Water, Sustainable Environment and Energy Conservation. Link <http://www.sciencexpress.in/>

India contributed to an article in the UNFF publication Forests for people in 2012.

**16. What sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:**

- ☐ National Draft set of C&I
- ☐ Regional/international set of C&I (e.g. ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Taraporto etc.)
- ☐ Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The development of National Set of C&I for SFM is in progress.

Are these C&I used to:

- ☐ Generate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
- ☐ Monitor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- ☐ Review and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
- ☐ Communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- ☐ Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

The Criteria identified in the National Set of C&I for SFM have been incorporated in the revised National Working Plan Code – 2014. The National Working Plan Code is guiding document for the preparation of Working Plans, a written statement for the amangement of forest in India (<http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/National%20Working%20Plan%20Code%202014.pdf>).

**17. Has your country translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?**

Yes. Translation has been done in Hindi, India's National Language. States have been requested to prepare translation of Forest instrument in their local language for easy understanding of people especially main stakeholders and local communities.

**18. Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests:**

1. Though the country has strong policy and legal framework for protection, management and conservation of forests, desired level of awareness about Forest Instrument was lacking. Since 2011, a series of efforts were made to educate various stakeholders about the importance of FI and its role in strengthening SFM in the country.
2. As pointed out earlier India has been quite successful in protecting its forests in spite of tremendous pressure for goods and services and meeting demands of natural resources for development. The strict and transparent procedure is being followed under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forests for non forestry uses. This has significantly reduced the deforestation. Further the forests are worked according to the approved working plans which are based on principles of SFM.
3. As already mentioned, there are around 300 million forest dependent people in the country for their sustenance and livelihoods. India has taken a series of initiatives for improving livelihoods from NTFPs and also reducing dependence on forests through skill upgradation and providing alternative means of livelihoods. These actions have not only reduced pressure on forests but also have enhanced economic opportunities for people from forestry and allied activities.
4. The PA network is around 5% of the geographical area, which has contributed significantly to the conservation of biodiversity and wildlife habitat. There are 102 National Parks and 517 Wildlife Sanctuaries in India spread over the entire country. Awareness programmes on forests and wildlife including Eco-tourism activities have contributed to people's participation in conservation programme.
5. Educational institutions, NGOs, Civil Society and Media have played an important role in increasing awareness in the society towards importance of forests, biodiversity and wildlife in human well being and thus have generated support for sustainable forest management.
6. **Awareness on Forest Instrument:** A National Level Workshop on Forest Instrument was organized in December, 2012. Further, 4 Regional level consultations were organized in 2013 on Forest Instrument with all relevant stakeholders, which recommended for capacity building of state forest departments for the implementation of four shared global objectives on forests and implementation of Non Legal Binding Instruments for the sustainable development of all types of forests. Initially, fund based mechanism for REDD+ projects was recommended with exploration of possibilities of market based mechanism. (<http://envfor.nic.in/assets/Proceedings-REDD+Workshop-29-Nov-2012.pdf>).
7. Strengthening of capacity of the frontline field staff and forest officials responsible for implementation/ execution of most of the forestry operations, enforcement of law, protection, control of damages and regeneration on the ground, needs to be updated time to time. The forestry research institutions also need to be strengthened to take up extensive research in SFM, forest productivity, climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry, forest based livelihood opportunities, processing, value addition of non timber forest produce etc. as well as international instruments on forestry like NLBI.
8. Conservation, expansion, and improvement in the quality of its forests is a national priority for India as it is not only a cost-effective mitigation measure against climate change, but also generates benefits in terms of ensuring qualitative and sustained flow of ecosystem goods and services, vital for the sustenance of local forest dependent communities. A range of policies and programmes have been initiated at the national level to address the impacts of climate change in the context of sustainable development. The National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of eight Missions prepared under the aegis of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). ([http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/redd-bk5\\_0.pdf](http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/redd-bk5_0.pdf))

## **PART II**

### **Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

#### **19. How have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?**

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

<b>By:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Improving livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing employment, including employment in informal economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. India has enacted the legislation “The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwelling Communities (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006”, which recognizes the forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional Forest Dwellers, who have been residing in such forests for generations. This landmark legislation has greatly benefitted forest dwelling communities by also empowering them in managing and conserving forest resources. The Non timber Forest Produce sector is given great impetus to create jobs and supplement income of local poor people in enhancing the NTFP resource base, processing and the improving market access of finished products. .. The Government has in 2013-14 started a scheme on **Minimum Support Price** on Minor Forest produce which is being implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs to ensure fair returns to primary collectors of Minor Forest produce. <http://www.tribal.nic.in/WriteReadData/CMS/Documents/201403250507260927826operationalguidelines2.pdf>

2. India has recently initiated National Mission for Green India (GIM), , based on landscape approach that underscores the significance of forests in ensuring food and water security along with livelihood security.. Green India Mission (GIM) considers “greening” in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation and takes a holistic approach that goes beyond trees/ pure plantation encompassing entire spectrum of habitat diversity & socio-economic diversity of the communities at a landscape level including improvement in eco-system services such as CO2 sequestration to the tune of 50-60 m tones/annum.

GIM stands to achieve to rehabilitate identified vulnerable core landscapes of 10 million hectares into sustainable eco-system units by ameliorating quality, productivity & density of forest cover, eco-restoration of non-productive agricultural land and through a host

of cross-sectoral interventions, most importantly the resurrection of catchment areas of hydrological value, wildlife corridor connectivity, extension of efficient fuel and energy devices to 3 million forest dwelling families and livelihood enhancement. The Mission envisages addressing the vulnerability of poor, tribal & backward forest dependent communities by producing an environment of sustainable and multiple livelihoods resilient to climate change effects. GIM is concerned and pro-active to ensure convergence with other natural resource and socio-economic development programmes of the country with local communities, as the main stakeholders, at the helm of planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring within the established framework of Joint Forest Management and other empowered delivery systems of participatory approach.

3. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA) also has components on drought proofing which provides for reclamation of degraded lands including afforestation. Weblink: <http://www.nrega.nic.in/netnrega/home.aspx>.

The Ministry of Rural Development has launched MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) to address poverty eradication in a holistic way. The scheme provides guarantee for 100 days of employment per person per family. The activities undertaken under MGNREGA have water harvesting, afforestation and creation of assets in rural areas which will create opportunity for livelihood of poor people.

There are many schemes in forestry sector which create livelihood opportunities to rural poor people through wage employment. Joint Forest Management involves active participation of local communities and is a method of ensuring SFM to turn forestry resources as assets for meeting their livelihood needs. India is now reorienting JFM into JFM Plus by factoring livelihood, capacity and skill development of communities for greater socio-economic improvement of local communities through SFM.

India has enacted the legislation "The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwelling Communities (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006", which aims to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional Forest Dwellers, who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded. This landmark legislation has greatly benefitted forest dwelling communities by also empowering them in management and conservation of forest resources. The Non timber Forest Produce sector is given great impetus to create jobs and supplement income of local poor people in enhancing the NTFP resource base, processing and the improving market access of finished products. The Government has recently formulated a scheme of minimum support price for minor forest produces so that rural forest dependent people get remunerative prices of forest produces. Communities are also being involved in management of protected area and eco-tourism activities.

## 20. How have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Providing habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



diversity

Stabilizing soils and slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safeguarding water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sequestering carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing timber, energy and other products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

Joint Forest Management Committees in Forests and Eco- Development Committees in Protected Areas are taking up water and soil conservation measures, regenerating NTFPs for livelihoods, promoting use of fuel efficient cook stoves etc.

**21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?**

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering partnerships with the private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

India, in recent years, has entered into partnerships with many countries like USA, Japan, China, Germany, UK, Norway and other countries on technical collaborations. India is also partnering with South Asian regional Countries under SAARC Forestry Programmes. A number of multilateral and bilateral Forestry programmes are being implemented in the country which focus on SFM and improving livelihoods of local communities with skill upgradation, improving processing of NTFPs and other forest products.

**22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Joint Forest Management which started in 1990 as a partnership to protect, develop and manage forests with people's participation has helped significantly in empowering women and rural poor through wage employment as well as income generating activities through usufructs sharing and alternative livelihoods. JFM has also helped in increasing people's awareness about role of forests in their well being including improvement in their health. Forest Departments also helped in promoting literacy among the rural poor especially women and elderly. The activities of Forest Development Corporation of the States are directed to maximise benefits from the forests to the local communities.

#### **MDG2: Achieving universal primary education**

Joint Forest Management Committees are contributing immensely to the universalisation of primary education especially in the remote forested areas where reach of other departments is limited. Some JFMCs have opened new educational institutions while many are supporting schools with basic amenities and popularising education in the villages. The Forest Departments as entry point activity also help Joint Forest Management Committees in building of educational institutions especially at primary level.

#### **MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women**

Joint Forest Management Committees have mandatory provisions to include women in Executive Committees. Most of the wage earning goes to women. They also form self help groups and cooperative societies especially in collection, processing and trade of Non Timber Forest Products. This has helped in women empowerment and women have become aware of their potential.

#### **MDG4: Reducing child mortality**

The education and women empowerment has helped in reducing child mortality in many remote forested parts of the country. Forest Department brings Doctors and Nurses to the villages for regular health check up and interaction with health system. Some JFMCs also provide ambulatory facilities to the needy and this has helped in greater proportion of assisted deliveries reducing child mortality.

#### **MDG5: Improving maternal health**

The interface with health facilities, improved communication and education, better nutrition and women empowerment through Joint Forest Management Committees has contributed significantly to improved maternal health.

#### **MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

Joint Forest Management Committees through the support of forest departments have helped in creating awareness about cleanliness and personal hygiene. In They have also been educated in traditional health care and dangers of diseases to take preventive measures.