

**Country: India**

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**General information**

**Head of forest agency**

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**UNFF national focal point**

**PART I: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument)<sup>1</sup>**

**Thematic Clusters of the Forest Instrument**

The forest instrument has been grouped into five cross-cutting and eight thematic clusters for easy reference<sup>2</sup>:

- 1A: Strengthening political commitment for sustainable forest management
- 1B: Financing sustainable forest management
- 1C: Capacity building and technology transfer
- 1D: Stakeholder participation
- 1E: Enhanced international cooperation
  
- 2A: Forest law enforcement and governance
- 2B: International Trade in forest products
- 2C: Protection of forests
- 2D: Science and research
- 2E: Public awareness and education
- 2F: Private sector and industry
- 2G: Indigenous and local communities
- 2H: Monitoring, assessment and reporting

Data provided on thematic clusters of the forest instrument will also be used for assessing progress toward its Global Objectives on Forests (Qs 33-49).

**1A: Strengthening political commitment to sustainable forest management**

1. Existence of Forest policy statement with national scope; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database<sup>3</sup> (T14 – Policy and legal framework)
2. Existence of national forest programme (nfp); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T14 – Policy and legal framework)
3. Do you have inter-institutional mechanisms/processes for cross-sectoral cooperation to achieve sustainable forest management? Yes No



**and Forest Rights Act, 2006. A scheme of Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce is being**



<b>research institutions are 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.</b>		
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If no, please describe the main challenges, including institutional and technology priority needs and know-how areas of particular concern (maximum 250 words).



	<b>afforestation Programmes are implemented through JFM Committees under guidance/ supervision of Forest Department.</b>	
Sub-national	<b>State Governments are the main implementing agency of SFM activities.</b>	
Local	<b>Participation of local communities under JFM on ‘care and share’ basis implementing the SFM policies.</b>	

Describe the processes of public participation in SFM, indicating existing mechanisms and stakeholders involved (maximum 250 words).

**The stakeholders are involved at all levels of programme formulation, planning and implementation. Ministry of Environment and Forests**



Others; please list:

		10)		10)
Timber products	<b>857038</b>	<b>1169022</b>	<b>1932</b>	<b>2399</b>
Fuelwood	<b>2512</b>	<b>3283</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>178</b>
17. Does your country trade in non-wood forest products? If yes, please	Yes		No	
		Import		Export

22. Does your country have an institute(s) promoting the development and application of scientific and technological innovations for SFM?	Yes	No
If yes, do they have extension programs for promoting the use of these scientific and technological innovations directed at forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders?	Yes	No

**Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an apex body in the national forestry research system, in the country for the holistic development of forestry research through need based planning, promoting, conducting and coordinating research, education and extension covering all aspects of forestry. The Council deals with the solution based forestry research in tune with the emerging issues in the sector, including**

	<p>to natural resource management with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To undertake, aid, promote and coordinate forestry education, research and their applications.</li> <li>• To develop and maintain a national library and information centre for forestry and allied sciences.</li> <li>• To act as a clearing-house for research and general information related to forests and wildlife.</li> <li>• To develop forestry extension programmes and propagates the same through mass media, audio-visual aids and extension machinery.</li> <li>• To provide consultancy services in the field of forestry research, education and allied sciences.</li> <li>• To undertake other jobs considered necessary to attain these objectives.</li> </ul>	
How many persons from the following groups were reached by these extension programs?	2007	2011

Forest owners		
Local communities		
Private sector		
Indigenous communities		
<b>2E: Public awareness and education</b>		
23. Graduation of students in forest-related education: data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 16 - Education and research).		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with M.Sc. degree or equivalent -	<b>491</b>	
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with B.Sc. degree or equivalent-		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with a technician certificate/diploma-	<b>88</b>	
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with M.Sc. degree or equivalent who		



peoples over publicly-owned forests recognized by law?	<b>Yes</b>	
Describe how they are recognized and practiced (maximum 250 words).		
<p><b>Though the Forest Rights of local community were recognized at the time of consolidation of forest areas by following the due procedure of law as per provisions contained in Indian Forest Act, 1927. However, in order to ensure that people are not deprived of their traditional forest rights, the Government of India has promulgated the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 with the objective to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in 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 for various reasons. As per the information collected till 31st July, 2012, total 32, 28,887 claims have been filed and 12, 68,766 titles have been distributed. Further, 14,726 titles were ready for distribution. A total of 27, 73,631 claims have been disposed of (85.90%).</b></p> <p><b>The rights of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers also include the responsibilities and authority for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance and thereby strengthening the conservation regime of the forests, while ensuring their livelihood and food security.</b></p>		
29. Are local communities and indigenous peoples benefiting from the goods and services produced by forests? <sup>4</sup>	<b>Yes</b>	No
Describe how this is functioning (maximum 250 words).		
<p><b>The Joint Forest Management based principle of “Care and Share” is the mechanism where local communities contribute to forest protection and regeneration and get predetermined share from the harvested forest produce. As per the National Forest Policy, 1988, the local communities including tribals have first right on the forest produce from the forest. The local people form a joint forest management committee with broad based membership including women. They are involved in preparation of micro-plan of the concerned forest area and take appropriate measure for regeneration and protection of forests including soil and moisture conservation and control of forest fire. The communities also constitute self-help groups to make products from various minor forest produce which add to their income and also create employment opportunities. The JFMCs agreement with Forest Departments for sharing of various forest produces. This has helped in sustainable management of forest of around 22million hectares of forests. The Gram Sabhas have been given ownership of minor forest produce with legislative action.</b></p>		
30. Are traditional forest-related knowledge and practices used in forest management, planning and implementation?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Explain how they are used and by whom (maximum 250).		

**Government of India enacted Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Biological Diversity**

**dwelling communities contribute the traditional forest based knowledge based on their own locally developed uses of resource and such knowledge usually taken in consideration by the field officials while in managing natural resources, ecosystem processes and functions. In India such type of practices exists especially in hilly and tribal areas that use their local or traditional practices for identifying the food, fibres, and medicinal values of species. Such traditional practices need to be documented and shared with concerned authorities to provide policy inputs.**

31. Do stakeholder participation mechanisms in support of sustainable forest management exist for the engagement of the following?	Yes	No

Indigenous peoples (where applicable)

Local communities

Describe these mechanisms and their functions. What specific role do indigenous peoples and/or local communities play in achieving sustainable forest management? (Maximum 250 words).

**Mechanism for stakeholders’ participation in afforestation and sustainable management of forests has evolved as Joint forest management, which has been in operation for about 20 years in India and adopted by all States and UT Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The total number of JFMC in the country are 112,896 and the forest area brought under it is 24.6 million ha, till March, 2010.**

**This mechanism for stakeholders participation has further been integrated in Green India Mission where Gram Sabha as overarching institution to facilitate implementation of the Mission activities at village level and build a skilled cadre of young “community foresters” from scheduled tribes and other forest dwelling communities. It aimed for adaptation of forest-dependent communities and improved livelihoods for about 3 million households. GIM aims for convergence with other programmes based on landscape approach.**

32. Are training and extension programmes being implemented that are directed at local communities and indigenous peoples in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests?	Yes	No
	Yes. However data not available.	

If yes, how many persons from the following communities were the beneficiaries?

Indigenous – Scheduled Tribes

Local



Business entities and institutions

Local, indigenous and tribal communities

Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 1 (maximum 250 words).

**Forest Cover in India is more or less stabilized since the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. National Forest Policy, 1988 strives for protection, conservation and sustainable management of forest with people's participation. The Joint Forest Management started in 1990 has effectively created massive involvement of people in planning, management and protection of forest resources throughout the country which has created a partnership between forest department and local communities in better management of forests. India is effectively working towards increasing the forest cover through afforestation and other agro forestry, social forestry to meet the demand of forest products from outside the natural forests, diverting the pressure on the natural forest thereby preventing forest degradation. Mission for Green India is a new country led initiative based on landscape approach to address forest degradation and restoration of degraded forest including bringing non-forestry areas under new forest cover.**

**Global Objective 2: Enhance forest-based economic,**

**National Mission under Climate Change, based on landscape approach that underscores the significance of forests in ensuring food and water security along with livelihood security to at least one fifth of the poor population of the country. It has been envisioned within the National Policy framework that recognizes the synergy between Sustainable Development Strategy of poverty eradication and Ecological Sustainability. 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 ambitious and important objective to turn around the 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. About a one fourth of the total Mission cost of USD 9600 million is dedicated to achieve this very vital objective to be realized in sync with the National Rural Livelihood Mission. To meet such an enormous ecological and socio-economic responsibility, 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.**

**While increased and improved quality of forest cover in terms of growth parameters, higher potential for carbon sequestration, better forest protection, fire**







as reducing time of collection of women who spent lot of daily time and energy in this endeavour. The Joint Forest Management since 1990 has contributed immensely in improving the life of rural women.

**2. Emphasis on non-timber forest produce, their scientific management, collection, processing and value addition and fair market mechanism will improve significantly the conditions of rural women. In India there are many women self help groups (SHGs) working in forestry sector especially in non-timber forest produce which have resulted in women empowerment.**

**3. India has started a scheme of Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce in order to increase livelihood opportunities in forestry sector.**

<b>Goal 4: Reduce child mortality:</b>		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?		<b>No. Data not available</b>

Please list the indicators.

Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).

**SFM will improve general socio-economic conditions of forest dependent communities, which will ultimately improve condition of women, better food and health of their family leading to reduction in child mortality. In India f**

Please list the indicators.

Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).

**SFM does not contribute directly to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria etc in the country. In few places Forest department runs hospitals and dispensaries like Haldwani, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh etc. However, since the Forest Department is usually working in the remote and tribal areas where the people are generally ignorant of good health practices, it can make efforts to provide the healthy environment and create the awareness programmes in coordination with local civic agency and health departments to bring the society to tackle t**