

Country: India

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Abbreviations in the questionnaire/template:

B.Sc.: Bachelor of Science degree
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
M.Sc.: Masters of Science degree
NA: Not available
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
UNFFS: United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat

PART I: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument)¹

Thematic Clusters of the Forest Instrument	<p>The forest instrument has been grouped into five cross-cutting and eight thematic clusters for easy reference²:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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).</p>
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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 database³ (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
If yes, which sectors are actively involved:	Yes	
Agriculture	Yes	
Climate Change	Yes	
Energy	No	
Tourism	Yes (Eco tourism)	
Water	Yes	
Other:	Tribals Development, Rural Development etc.	

Please describe the inter-institutional mechanisms/processes for cross-sectoral cooperation (maximum 250 words).

In India forests (78 million ha) are publicly owned and are managed by State Forest Departments and the role of the Central Government is to give policy directions and guidelines from time to time. National Forest Policy, 1988 assigns maintaining ecological balance and environmental equilibrium as the prime objective. Around 200 million people

¹ <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/469/65/PDF/N0746965.pdf?OpenElement>

² E.CN.18/2009/2, pp 4-5 (<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/240/37/PDF/N0924037.pdf?OpenElement>)

³ http://countrystat.org/for/cont/inctables/pageid/8_mega/en

living and in and around forests are dependent on forests for their livelihood and sustenance. There is close cooperation between various departments like rural development, tribal welfare, agriculture, health, tourism, etc. with forest department for improvement of livelihood of rural people and tribals.

The institutional mechanism/ process for cross sectoral cooperation to achieve SFM are primarily with related and stakeholder sectors such as Agriculture, Climate Change, Tourism, Water and Rural Development etc. However, data is not available in desired format which needs to be compiled and maintained by various Governmental and Non Governmental Agencies. Planning Commission of India coordinates between various Ministries and Departments for integrated action of various ministries in formulation and review of programs including forestry sector. Agriculture Ministry has an important role in promotion of Farm/ agro-forestry. It is also the nodal Ministry for implementation of National Bamboo Mission which works for promotion of bamboo plantation. Department of Science and Technology supports Bamboo application and its processing through National Mission for Bamboo Application. Medicinal Plants Conservation and propagation is promoted by National Medicinal Plants Board under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is working on various programmes/ scheme with the objective of improving livelihood of tribals and forest dependent communities together with Forest Departments/Forest Development Corporations of various states . Climate Change and forests related issues are dealt within the Environment & Forest Ministry. The forestry sector is an integral part of National Action Plan of Climate Change which is inter-sectoral programme. In programs of various ministries, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is consulted during formulation of schemes and programs, especially in the social sector. Diversion of forestland for developmental purposes proposed by various departments is regulated through Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and loss of forest cover is compensated through mandatory Compensatory Afforestation. Recent initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, National Mission for Green India, one of the eighth National Missions on Climate Change has envisaged a holistic programme Greening India by creating synergies between various Ministries/ departments like Ministry of Tribal Affairs, M/o of Rural Development, M/o Panchayati Raj etc. for pooling of resources and efforts for achieving the target of restoration and afforestation of 10 mha of forest land.

4. Are your national forest programmes and relevant policies and strategies contributing to poverty eradication?	Yes	No
<p>If yes, please specify :</p> <p>The national forestry programmes are contributing significantly towards poverty eradication, through various schemes of Central and State Governments. Afforestation, regeneration and bio-diversity conservation programs of the Ministry create significant employment opportunities for forest dependent people and local communities. Apart from that people collect forest produce, especially non timber forest produce for supplementing their livelihood. Local people and gram Sabha have been empowered and given ownership of minor forest produce in respect of their jurisdiction under recent legislation of PESA, 1996</p>	Yes,	

<p>and Forest Rights Act, 2006. A scheme of Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce is being worked out for increasing income of rural people and tribals conversant with various programmes like MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) which ensures minimum employment opportunities to people in rural areas also includes afforestation.</p>		
<p>National forest programs have been revised to include specific measures and resources for eradicating poverty.</p> <p>Around 200 million people living in and around forests are dependent on forests for their livelihood and sustenance. Since 1990, India has started Joint Forest Management with involvement of local communities on the principle of ‘care and share’. Local people participate in conservation and regeneration of forests and get pre-determined share in its usufructs. More than 1,12,896 Joint Forest Management Committees involving over 20 million people manage around 24.6 mha of forests. National Afforestation programmes and eco-tourism activities are implemented through JFMs or local people. Green India Mission is being initiated with the objective of increasing forest cover by 5 million hectare and improving existing degraded forest cover of 5 million hectare within 10 years with an outlay of US\$ 10 billion. The programme is based on landscape approach and will be implemented through local communities.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>National poverty eradication plans and strategies or equivalent have been revised to incorporate sustainable forest management.</p>	<p>Yes. A number of schemes are being implemented by various stakeholder Ministries, which directly or indirectly support sustainable forest management such as integrated watershed management, eco-restoration of degraded lands and locally sponsored projects at Panchayat level under MGNREGA.</p>	
<p>Please describe specific actions or measures taken to eradicate poverty and their effects (maximum 250 words).</p> <p>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.</p>		

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 is evolving 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.

5. Has the forest instrument been translated into your country's official/local language(s)?	Yes	No
	Yes,	

Please list the language(s) into which the forest instrument has been translated.
 English & Hindi. Will be translated in other regional / state languages by the end of 2012.

The instruments are available in official language (English) but yet to be translated in other regional languages. An advisory has been issued to all State Governments to get the instrument translated into their state language/local language.

1B: Financing sustainable forest management: Assessment of this thematic cluster will be conducted on the basis of data provided under Global Objective on Forests 4 (Q. 43-49).

1C: Capacity building and technology transfer

6. Total number of persons employed in forestry (1,000 persons-years); data will be derived by UNFFS from the FRA database (T13 – Employment).

7. Total number of staff working in public forest institutions; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T15 – Institutional framework).

Does your country have adequate capacity and technology to implement sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
	Partly yes.	

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

<p>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.</p>		
<p>If no, please describe the main challenges, including institutional and technology priority needs and know-how areas of particular concern (maximum 250 words).</p>		
<p>India has strong knowledge base and organizational capacity in traditional forestry. However, keeping in view the changing paradigm of managing forest for overall ecological sustainability as well as for livelihood security, the forest organization is required to acquire new capabilities to meet its role. In particular, assistance would be needed in technological upgradation, capacity building, strengthening institutions and training of staff and forest dependent communities in area of forestry research and eco-system services.</p>		
<p>8. Is your country engaged in SFM-related technology transfer?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>If yes, is your country a donor or recipient of SFM technology?</p>		
<p>Donor country</p>		
<p>Recipient country</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Describe the nature, source and target of technology transfer (maximum 250 words).</p>		
<p>1. Capacity building of Forestry Personnel 2. Capacity Building of communities 3. Technological support under JICA (externally aided programme) 4. USAID Forest Plus Project</p>		
<p>9. Are there any incentives for promoting improved technologies for SFM?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>If yes, please check where applicable:</p>		
<p>Low-interest loans</p>	<p>JICA (externally aided project)</p>	
<p>Tax breaks</p>	<p>-</p>	
<p>Subsidies</p>	<p>-</p>	
<p>Participation in SFM best practice certification programmes that improve access to markets</p>	<p>-</p>	
<p>Others; please specify (maximum 250):</p>		
<p>Mainly the forestry activities are undertaken with the Government funding as per various schemes targeted for specific activities like National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission, grant of 13th Finance Commission for preparation of working plans and working schemes for forest area. Protected Area Management is also carried out with the support of Government funding for preparation of management plan and their implementation. Intensification of Forest Management Scheme provides funding scheme from the Central Government to various State Governments for strengthening of infrastructure for forest management and protection, demarcation of boundaries of forests, fire protection and other protection activities.</p>		

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy is organizing training of IFS officers on various topics and mid-term career training of various seniorities alongwith foreign collaborators like Forestry Universities in Canada, US, and Finland. Central Forest Academy/ State Forest Service College also conduct various courses for updating knowledge, skill of forest officers. ICFRE, IIFM, WII, IPIRTI, and other institutions impart various training in specialized fields to foresters and other stakeholders.

1D: Stakeholder participation

10. Does your country have programmes for involving stakeholders in SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation? If yes, please indicate the levels:	Yes	No
National	<p>Yes, the Central Government provides the policy directions and coordination and facilitates State Forest Department for sustainable forest management. The Central Government also holds national level consultations as well as regional consultations with various stakeholders form local communities and civil society. State Governments are the main implementing agency of SFM activities. Participation of local communities under JFM in micro-planning, afforestation, conservation and protection of forests on ‘care and share’ basis was started during 1990 which has also contributed significantly in implementing the SFM activities at local level. National</p>	

	afforestation Programmes are implemented through JFM Committees under guidance/ supervision of Forest Department.	
Sub-national	State Governments are the main implementing agency of SFM activities.	
Local	Participation of local communities under JFM on 'care and share' basis implementing the SFM policies.	
Describe the processes of public participation in SFM, indicating existing mechanisms and stakeholders involved (maximum 250 words).		
<p>The stakeholders are involved at all levels of programme formulation, planning and implementation. Ministry of Environment and Forests invites various stakeholders such as other Central Ministries/ Departments, State Forest Departments (major stakeholder), forestry institutions ICFRE and, its regional institutes FRI, Dehradun, AFRI, Jodhpur, TFRI, Jabalpur, IFGTB, Coimbatore etc, wood/NTFP based industries people, university, NGO, tree growers etc to solve the specific problems/needs of these stakeholders and suggest to formulate the policy guidelines.</p>		
1E: Enhanced international cooperation		
11. Is your country engaged in international cooperation in sustainable forest management? If yes, please specify the type of the cooperation:	Yes	No
	Yes	
North-South	With USA and China	
South-South	Bangladesh	
Triangular		
Others:		
Please give examples, describing the main objectives and elements of the cooperation (maximum 250 words).		
12. In which areas would your country like to see more international cooperation:		
Forests and climate change	Yes	
Forest biodiversity	Yes	
Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests	Yes	
Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods	Yes	
Forest degradation and rehabilitation	Yes	

Others; please list:

India has bilateral cooperation with USA, China and Bangladesh, in sustainable forest management. Ministry of Environment & Forests would like to have more international cooperation on Forest Certification, Improvement of Forest Productivity, Biodiversity Conservation, Forestry Research, on REDD+ Cooperation, Protected area management and Mangroves Conservation besides, MoEF like to strengthened the international cooperation in which MoEF already doing co-operation and tackling on Forests and climate change, Forest biodiversity, Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests, Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods, Forest degradation and rehabilitation, Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests, Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods.

1. **Forest Certification,**
2. **Improvement of Forest Productivity,**
3. **Biodiversity Conservation,**
4. **Forestry Research,**
5. **On REDD+ Cooperation,**
6. **Protected area management,**
7. **Mangroves Conservation, etc.**

2A: Forest law enforcement and governance

13. Existence of law (Act or Code) on forests with national scope; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T14 - Policy and legal framework).

14. Since the adoption of the forest instrument in 2007, have steps been taken to strengthen forest-related legislation, law enforcement and governance in support of sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
	Yes	

15. Is your country participating in international agreements/partnerships to address illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources?	Yes	No
	Yes	

If yes, is your country a donor or recipient of capacity building to address forest-related illegal practices?

Donor country	Yes
Recipient country	

Describe the recent significant steps taken to enhance forest law enforcement and governance in your country (maximum 250 words).

India has the history of scientific management of forests for the last 150 years but there is need to strengthen linkages of forestry sector with other sectors like rural development, agriculture, horticulture, tribal welfare, energy, urban development, education etc. for addressing the challenges of poverty eradication, employment and ensuring food security. India has Promulgation of Forest Rights Act, 2006, Starting of National Mission for Green India, National Tiger Conservation Authority set up in 2008.

1. **Promulgation of Forest Rights Act, 2006**
2. **Starting of National Mission for Green India, 2011**
3. **National Tiger Conservation Authority set up in 2008**

2B: International trade in forest products

16. Is your country involved in international forest products trade? If yes, please provide estimated market value (US\$ 1000):	Yes		No	
	Import		Export	
	2007	2011(20	2007	2011(20

		10)		10)
Timber products	857038	1169022	1932	2399
Fuelwood	2512	3283	48	178
17. Does your country trade in non-wood forest products? If yes, please list the most important and provide estimated market value:	Yes		No	
	Import		Export	
	2007	2011	2007	2011
	62214	53262	123534	37963
Describe the recent significant steps taken to enhance international trade in forest products in your country (maximum 250 words).				
India is a net importer of forest products including round timber for meeting industrial and domestic demands. The country follows international conventions in trade in forest products. India has initiated process for certification in forest products through chain of custody process.				
2C: Protection of forests				
18. Forest area (1000 hectares) conservation of biodiversity; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 3 – Forest designation and management).				
19. Forest area (1000 hectares) within protective areas; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 3 – Forest designation and management).				
Describe any significant actions related to protection of forests since 2007 (maximum 250 words).				
Implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006, while recognizing traditional rights of tribals and other forest dwelling Communities on forests both individual as well as community level, at the same time empowering them for conservation of forest resources.				
2D: Science and research				
20. How much funding (US\$ 1000) was designated for forest-related research?	2007		2011	
			The funding for ICFRE was US\$19,740 Thousand in the year 2011. In addition State Forest Department spend on the search. Complete data is not readily available at the movement.	
21. Please specify the sources of financing:	2007		2011	
Public sector				
Private industry				
Bilateral cooperation				
Multilateral cooperation				
Others; please describe (maximum 250 words).				

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
	<p>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 global concerns such as climate change, conservation of biological diversity, combating desertification and sustainable management and development of resources. Topical research by the Council enhances public confidence in the ability of forest managers and researchers to successfully handle challenges related</p>	

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

Forest owners		
Local communities		
Private sector		
Indigenous communities		
2E: Public awareness and education		
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 -	491	
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-	88	
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with M.Sc. degree or equivalent who are women-	38%	
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with B.Sc. degree or equivalent who are women-		
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with a technician certificate/diploma who are women-	36%	
24. Did your country organize specific events and activities in support of the International Year of Forests?	Yes	No
	Yes	
If yes, please describe them (maximum 250 words).		
<p>Contribution of forests to the economy is traditionally recognized through products of economic value like timber as well as a range of non-priced products such as fuel wood, fodder and a range of Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) including medicinal plants that are exchanged in an informal manner. The limited market exchange results in gross undervaluation of forests, which leads to inadequate allocation of funds to the forestry sector. Acceptance of ecological services of forests like hydrological benefits, soil conservation, flood control, carbon sequestration, fresh air generation, climate stabilization, bio-diversity conservation and amelioration of overall environment, eco-tourism etc. is recent outcome of the sustained awareness & mass communication efforts of the past few decades. Forests also play a very important role in rural and tribal economy as many of the NTFPs provide sustenance to a few hundred million poor people. India accorded very high importance to the International Year of Forests considering the valuable role forests play in Indian subcontinent. 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. On June, 5, 2011, the World Environment Day was celebrated on the theme of International Year of Forests. 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 Agroforestry Research”. Programmes were organized throughout the year with the State Forest Department, Communities and NGOs for celebration of International Year of Forests, 2011.</p>		
25. Has your country implemented actions to increase public awareness of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management?	Yes	
If yes, which of the following approaches have been utilized?	Yes	
Published materials, such as brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, etc.		
Meetings with the general public to inform them of the benefits provided by forests to society	A system of Van Vigyan Kendras and Demo Villages has been established by	

	ICFRE to increase the awareness on forestry related issues to the citizens of India. The Van Vigyan Kendras are being linked to the already existing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) of the agriculture sector to benefit from the mass reach of the KVKs.	
Meetings with private and public sector stakeholders to inform them of the benefits of sustainable forest management	A Direct to Consumer Scheme has been launched by ICFRE for transferring the technologies developed directly to the user for uplifting the livelihood.	
Other; please describe (maximum 100 words).		
2F: Private sector and industry		
26. Do stakeholder participation mechanisms in support of sustainable forest management exist that engage the private sector and industry?	Yes	No
		No
27. Have you established or strengthened public-private partnerships to advance sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
		-
If yes, please describe (maximum 250 words).		
<p>The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides for private sector participation in afforestation outside natural/ recorded forests areas for meeting industrial demands of forest produce. There are large number of woodbased Industries working in partnership with farmers and landowners for raising plantations for meeting their demands of raw materials particularly in northern states of Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh. Many State governments facilitate private initiatives by relaxing regulatory regime on timber grown on private lands. The forestry research Institutions also support R&D in fast growing species. Farm and agro forestry sector is currently meeting a significant share of domestic demand of forest products in the country thereby reducing pressure on natural forests considerably.</p>		
Describe these mechanisms and their functions. What specific role do the private sector and industry play in promoting and supporting the forest instrument and sustainable forest management? (maximum 250 words).		
<p>The private sector in partnership with farmers and landowners takes up agroforestry and farm forestry activities by offering quality planting materials, technology and ensures reasonable price by entering into buyback arrangements. The forest departments in concerned States also support such initiatives by playing enabling role and facilitate partnership between industries and farmers. Forest Development Corporations also play an important role in promoting agroforestry activities. This results in increase in TOF.</p>		
2G: Indigenous and local communities		
28. Are tenure and user rights of local communities and indigenous	Yes	No

peoples over publicly-owned forests recognized by law?	Yes	
Describe how they are recognized and practiced (maximum 250 words).		
<p>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%).</p> <p>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.</p>		
29. Are local communities and indigenous peoples benefiting from the goods and services produced by forests? ⁴	Yes	No
	Yes	
Describe how this is functioning (maximum 250 words).		
<p>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.</p>		
30. Are traditional forest-related knowledge and practices used in forest management, planning and implementation?	Yes	No
	Yes	
Explain how they are used and by whom (maximum 250).		
<p>Government of India enacted Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Biological Diversity Rule, 2004 to regulate access to biological resources of the country with the purpose of securing equitable share in benefits arising out of use of biological resources and conserve, protect and sustainably use biological diversity. It empowers the local communities for the regeneration of the forests and also conservation of biodiversity. Local people and forest</p>		

⁴Benefit-sharing policies for management of forest resources vary among countries. In national policy regimes that require permits from a national forest authority, benefits can include payments for protecting, regenerating and planting forests; payments for ecosystem services; harvesting of non-timber forest products, dry timber and dead trees; and selective harvesting of timber, among others.

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?

	2007	2011
Indigenous – Scheduled Tribes		
Local		

Part II: The Global Objectives on Forests

Global Objective 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

33. Extent of the country’s forests and other wooded lands (1000 ha.); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.1 - Extent of forest and other wooded land)	2005	2010
34. Extent of the country’s forests under public/private ownership (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.2 - Forest ownership and management rights).	2005	2010

Extent of the country’s forests under private ownership (1000 ha)

Extent of privately-owned forests according to the following categories (1000 ha)

Individual

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, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people		
35. Extent of forest designated and managed for production (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.3 - Forest designation and management).	2005	2010
Extent of forest designated and managed for protection (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for conservation (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for social services (1000 ha)		
36. Total volume of industrial roundwood removal (1000 m ³); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.11 - Forest Wood removals and value of removals).	2005	2010
Total value of industrial roundwood removal (US\$1000)		
Total volume of fuelwood removal (1000 m ³)		
Total value of fuelwood removal (US\$1000)		
Total value of non-wood forest products (NWFP) (US\$1000)		
37. Has your country established a mechanism(s) for payment of ecosystem services?	Yes	No
		No
If yes, what is the estimated value of the payment of ecosystem services (US\$ 1,000)?	2005	2011
	No	No
Please describe how the mechanism(s) function (maximum 250 words). Government of India has initiated Green India Mission which besides aiming for afforestation on 5 mha land and improvement of another 5 mha, thereby enhancing the ecosystem services. The ecosystem services from sustainable forest management are being managed by the State as public goods and services.		
38. What is the number of visitors to national parks and other protected areas in your country?	2005	2011
	Not available	Not available
39. What is the area of urban parks in your country (1000 ha)?	Not available	Not available
40. What is the estimated number of visitors to urban parks in your country?	-do-	-do-
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 2 (maximum 250 words). Recent Initiative as National Mission for Green India (GIM) India has recently initiated National Mission for Green India (GIM), one of the		

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 management, regulated grazing, invasive species eradication are expected from key technical interventions, the Mission will support landscape level planning for livelihood support activities based upon lessons learnt from project implemented in various States and in the JFM programmes.

Global Objective 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

41. Extent of forest designated and managed for sustainable forest management (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.3 - Forest designation and management).	2005	2010
Extent of forest with management plans (1000 ha)		
42. Does your country have forests under internationally recognized certification schemes?	Yes	No
		No
If yes, please specify:	Certification Scheme	Area

Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 3 (maximum 250 words).

The country total recorded forest area is 7,69,538 Km² which is about 23.41% of Geographical Area which include 4,22,536 Km² as Reserved Forests, 2,13,982 Km² as

Protected Forests and 1,33,020 Km² as Unclassed forests. The forests are managed through approved working plans. There are 668 Protected areas including National Parks (102), Wildlife Sanctuaries (515), Conservation Reserves (47) and Community Reserves (4). These Protected areas cover about 16.12 mha constitute about 20.6% of forest areas or about 4.9% of total Geographical Area of the country. The protected areas are managed scientifically through appropriate management plans.

Global Objective 4: Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

43. Does your country have a government budget specific for forests?	Yes	No
	Yes	
44. What is the total amount of funding in forest management, administration, research and human resource development (US\$ 1,000)?	2007	2011
Central Sector includes total centre outlay for forestry and wildlife	2,70,200	4,60,000
State Plan	Not available	Not available
45. If the funding for forests is spread among other sectors, please specify the main contributors:		
Agriculture	Yes	
Energy		
Water	Yes	
Climate change		
Nature conservation	Yes	
Others; please specify:		
In Urban Areas, afforestation and urban green developments are undertaken by civic Agencies/ Municipal Bodies, development Authorities. Afforestation works are carried out in watershed Development, Restoration of Degraded lands & Wastelands, Development also by different agencies, sometime the Forest Department is associated in implementation of these schemes.		
46. Has the country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM since 2007? If yes, please specify sources:	Yes	No
		No
Domestic public funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)
		Data not available
Domestic private sector funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)
		Not available
External private sector funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)
		No
If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds (maximum 250 words).		
47. Does your country have a National Forests Fund?	Yes	No
		No
48. Is your country a donor or recipient of ODA for forestry?	Donor	Recipient
		Yes
49. If yes, what has been the net ODA received/donated for forestry (US 1000)?	Donor	Recipient

	2007	2010	2007	2011
				US\$ 14,94 8,00 Thou sand

Please use this space to describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 4 (maximum 250 words).

Total 14 Externally Aided Projects are currently being implemented in various States of the country by the Externally aided project out of which 13 are funded by JICA and one is funded by AFD. These Projects include broad parameters of SFM such as Afforestation, Biodiversity Conservation, Community Mobilization & Development, Institutional capacity development, poverty alleviation livelihood improvement, water conservation, rehabilitation of degraded lands, farm forestry on private land holdings and Ecotourism. Most of these projects are targeted to be completed by 2015 or 2019. Total funding involved in all these Projects is Rs. 7474 Crore i.e. US\$ 14,948,00 Thousand.

PART III: Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Forests can make significant contributions to poverty reduction, improved health, education and gender equity. Sustainable forest management aims to enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, the evidence of this contribution and greater recognition of the value of sustainably managed forests are difficult to gather.

Currently the only forest-related official MDG indicator that provides information on the proportion of land area covered by forest is Indicator 7.1 under Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. This indicator, however, neither reflects the full range of benefits and services including socio-economic benefits of forests to society, nor the contributions of forests to the achievement of other MDGs. Establishing the direct and indirect links between forests and MDGs is pivotal to ensure that concrete efforts are being taken to reverse the loss of forest cover and to prevent forest degradation while maximizing the benefits of forests for achieving sustainable development.

The aim of this part of the reporting format is to explore the existing data, evidence basis and cases demonstrating the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to MDGs, at the same time identifying gaps in the monitoring systems and lack of adequate indicators.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Please indicate the most forest relevant MDGs in your country

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:

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?

Yes

Please list the indicators.

Indicators:

- **Employment generation in afforestation, regeneration activities,**

- **Collection of fruits, fibre, roots, tubers, bamboo and other Non Timber Forest produces etc for food and food supplements**
- **Collection of NTFPs, processing and sale for livelihood and income generation.**
- **Rural people and tribal are dependent on forests for water, fishery, wood fuel, energy.**

Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words).

Forests contribute to sustainable development in a multitude of ways: they can reduce hunger and poverty, provide employment and income, are a source of biodiversity, can store water, stabilize the soil and mitigate climate change by sequestering and storing large amounts of carbon and helping building climate resilience of forest communities. There are many documented cases of the importance of forest products to subsistence and income generation of local people living in and around forests. These include edible plants, fruits, bush meat, edible insects, medicinal plants, fibers, fuel wood and charcoal and many others. Some of them even constitute an important part of the rural economy in certain regions and are traded regionally or sometimes even internationally. For many rural people, especially women, small forest- based enterprises, marketing mainly non-wood forest products, are an important source of household income. The sharing and use of fragmented knowledge is important for strategic coherence and to avoid duplication. Convergence of various development activities in coordinated manner and inclusivity will improve economic condition of forest dependent poor people.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education:

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?		No. Data not available

Please list the indicators.

Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words).

SFM can contribute partly in achieving this goal. State forest departments/ Forestry institutions can play a significant role in spreading primary and informal education in remote forested areas where access of education department is not adequate. However, specific indicators and data not available.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women:

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?	Yes. Data not available	

Please list the indicators.

Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words).

Forestry sector offers equal opportunity for women in afforestation, collection of NTFPs and helps in their empowerment. It is mostly rural women who are more dependent on forests for collection of wood fuel for meeting their energy needs of their family. Afforestation in the vicinity of villages will help in creating more wood fuel resources as well

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.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality:		
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?		No. Data not available
Please list the indicators.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).		
<p>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 forest provides variety of wild edible food, herbal medicinal plants which are used as food supplement and also help in improvement of general health.</p>		
Goal 5: Improve maternal health		
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?		No, Data not available
Please list the indicators.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).		
<p>Generally women have equal opportunities and engaged in forestry activities in and around forest/ rural areas as major participants as equal partner with their male family members and supplement their household income. In India, traditional forest dwellers and tribals depend significantly on forest for food, food supplement, woodfuel, medicinal plants etc. Women from these communities spend considerable time and efforts in collection of these products including water which affects their health. SFM will significantly contribute in improvement of general health of women by enhancing sustained availability of fruits, seeds, leaves, medicinal plants which will supplement nutrients to the working women.</p>		
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases		
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?		No, Data not available

Please list the indicators.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).		
<p>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 these issues safely along with providing first aid and specific medicine to deal with malaria and other water borne diseases. Forest Department can be very useful in order to spread the message of health education in rural and tribal society including workers in the forestry activities. There are many forest medicinal and herbal plants available which can be promoted widely for improving general health.</p>		
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability		
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?	Yes, Data not available	
Please list the indicators.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).		
<p>Sustainable development through judicious and equitable use of forestry resources obtained from forest under SFM will significantly contributes towards achieving environmental sustainability. SFM helps in continuous supply of eco-system services with better and healthy environment and make the local communities resilient to climate change at the same time reducing the impact of natural disasters like drought and floods. Sustainably managed forests help in soil and water conservation, maintaining hydrological cycle, improving soil fertility, moderate climate and at the same time provide sustenance to forest dwellers and dependent communities. Thus, role of sustainably managed forests in ensuring environmental sustainability cannot be over emphasised.</p>		
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development		
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?	Yes, data not available	
Please list the indicators.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).		
<p>In the Indian context, SFM has tremendous scope for providing safety net in the form of ensuring food, water and livelihood security of vast rural population and the Indian experience can be valuable for other countries in managing forests sustainably and integrating with development programmes. Global partnership can be formed in sharing experience, knowledge and best practices.</p>		
Please provide a short description of case studies and success stories on data collection on the contribution of forests to achieve MDGs that could serve as examples of good practice for other countries (maximum 250 words).		