



संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी मिशन
न्यूयॉर्क

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

No.PMI/NY/2C/2019

December 23, 2019

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat in New York and has the honour to refer to UN Secretariat's communication No.DESA-19/01896 dated 3 July 2019 regarding Voluntary National Contributions by the Member States towards the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-30.

The Permanent Mission, in this regard, has the honour to attach India's National Voluntary Contribution to achieve the targets of the global forest goals for the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests (UNSPF) 2017-2030.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat in New York, the assurances of its highest consideration.



The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF
INDIA'S NATIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO ACHIEVE THE TARGETS OF
THE GLOBAL FOREST GOALS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN ON
FORESTS (UNSPF) 2017-2030

DECEMBER 2019

New Delhi

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF THE GLOBAL FOREST GOALS AND TARGETS

Mr Chairman,

As a Member State of the UNFF, India supports the Global Forest Goals and Targets and UNSPF for period 2017-30 adopted by UNFF. India takes the opportunity to announce the Voluntary National Contribution (VNC) towards the attainment of Global Forest Goals.

GLOBAL FOREST GOAL 1 AND ASSOCIATED TARGETS

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

- 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide
- 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced
- 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

India's VNC Announcement:

Target 1.1

- India is one of the few countries of the world that carries out the assessment of the forest and tree cover using Remote Sensing Technology, once in two years on a regular basis and published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the last report published in January, 2018, the forest and tree cover in the country has registered an increase by 1% during the two year period for 2013 to 2015. The increasing trend of forest cover in country during the last decade indicates India's commitment towards achievement of Global Forest Goal.

Therefore India announces addition of 2 lakh hectares of forest and tree cover per year as part of contributing towards target 1.1 of Global Forest Goal 1.

Target 1.2

- India has made national commitments in CoP Paris Agreement for Nationally

Determined Contribution (NDC) regarding creation of additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by additional forest and tree cover by 2030. This commitment is directly helpful in achieving the target 1.2 under the Global Forest Goal 1.

Therefore, India reaffirms this target at UNFF for achieving the 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Target 1.3 of Global Forest Goal 1 and

Target 6.3 of Global Forest Goal 6:

GLOBAL FOREST GOAL 6

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

India's VNC Announcement for target 1.3 and 6.3:

Forests play an important role in combating land degradation and desertification and also contribute to sustainable land management. An effective forest landscape restoration strategy and cross-sectoral coordination can address common challenges of land degradation. Government of India has renewed the existing Bonn Challenge pledge and has announced to bring under restoration of a total of 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Therefore, India reaffirms Bonn Challenge pledge for restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 at UNFF too, towards the land degradation neutrality and thereby contribution to attainment of target 1.3 and target 6.3 of Global Forest Goal 1 and 6 respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

India is committed to ensuring sustainable management of forests and achieving the Global forest Goals of the UNSPF 2030.

Thank you.
