

Voluntary National Report to UNFF

Voluntary National Report on progress towards the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the UN Forest Instrument and Voluntary National Contributions

Thank you for taking the time to complete the voluntary national report to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF).
Before you start, please take note of the following important information:

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2022/17, requested the UNFF secretariat to amend the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from members of the Forum, and conduct a pilot phase for the use of the refined format. In the same resolution, the Council invited the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting. It further requested that the secretariat explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries.
2. In fulfilling this mandate, the UNFF Secretariat has amended the format, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from Members of the Forum and in consultation with the advisory group on reporting. The secretariat has also established an online reporting platform for the submission of voluntary national reports to the Forum.
3. The amended format is structured around the Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) and builds on the previous format that was used for reporting to the UNFF15.
4. The amended format consists of twelve sections, each with several questions:
 1. General information
 2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets
 3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets
 4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets
 5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets
 6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets
 7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets
 8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets
 9. Voluntary National Contributions
 10. Other questions: Gender equality
 11. Other questions: International Day of Forests
 12. Success stories

To download a PDF file of the amended voluntary report format, click here [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)

5. In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, you are kindly invited to consult experts from relevant national ministries, the national focal points for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA), Rio Conventions, other member organizations of the CPF, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or that is not available in other international databases, is requested.
6. In completing the national report, you may include actions by the Government, as well as the private sector, communities, civil society, or other stakeholders. The year 2020 is used as a baseline, so please include all actions taken since this date. Where applicable, please indicate the source of information, or provide a weblink as reference.
7. All terms used in this amended format are consistent with terms and definitions used by the FAO Forest Resources Assessment.
8. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)) for more in-depth guidance when completing the national report. Other helpful resources include:
[Global Forest Goals and targets \(E/RES/2017/4\)](#)
[Sustainable Development Goals and targets \(A/RES/70/1\)](#)
9. The deadline for submission of the national reports to the UNFF secretariat is 30 June 2025.

Instructions for using the online reporting platform

1. A dedicated link has been provided to the main UNFF national focal point from each country to complete their national report. You may share the link with other national officials, experts from your own country and other relevant departments to collaborate on a single national report. To avoid accidentally deleting or overwriting completed sections of the report, please ensure no two people are working on the same section of the format at the same time. Please do not share the dedicated link with anyone not involved in completing the UNFF national report for your country.
2. The reporting format is available in English, Spanish and French. Please select the language using the menu located in the top right corner of the page.
3. You are given the flexibility to pause and resume completion of the national report. Your responses will be automatically saved, and you may return to the report at any time before the deadline for submission. To return to the report, please click on the link in the original email. If you are working with a weak internet signal, you may want to connect using an Ethernet cable instead of Wi-Fi to ensure a more stable connection.
4. You are invited to use the Section Navigator to move between sections of the survey. Click on the 'Answer' button next to each Section to navigate to the questions in that Section. Once inside the section, use the 'Save and continue' button to proceed within the section and the 'Back' button to return to previous questions.
5. By clicking 'Review and Download' in the Section Navigator, you will be able to download a PDF copy of your responses. After download, you can return to the questions to amend your answers, if necessary.
6. Prior to submission, you will be prompted to upload a cover letter conveying this as the official national report for your country. This step is mandatory. The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The cover letter size should not exceed 2MB.
7. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email and a PDF copy of the national report.
8. In case of any questions or technical issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) from the UNFF secretariat.

1. General information

1. Country:

This question is required

India

2. UNFF National Focal Point:

(The national focal point will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

This question is required

Name: : R. Raghu Prasad

Title: : Inspector General of Forest (Forest Policy)

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Organization: : Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India

Telephone: : +9111 20819186

Email: : raghu.prasad@gov.in; forestpolicy-moefcc@gov.in

**3. Contact person for the present national report, if different from the UNFF National Focal Point:
(The contact person will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)**

Name: : Amit Anand
Title: : Deputy Inspector General of Forest (Forest Policy)
Address: : Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh road, New Delhi-3
Organization: : Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India
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Email: : agmu216@ifs.nic.in; forest policy-moefcc@gov.in

**4. Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report:
(up to five)**

Institution Name:

Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal

Email address:

director@iifm.ac.in

Address:

Indian Institute of Forest Management P.O. Box 357, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal – 462003, Madhya Pradesh, India

Institution Name:

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)

Email address:

dg@icfre.org

Address:

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248006, Uttarakhand, India

Institution Name:

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

Email address:

chairman@nba.nic.in

Address:

Chairman / Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113, Tamil Nadu, India

Institution Name:

Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

Email address:

dwii@wii.gov.in

Address:

7XMF+9G2, Chandrabani, Dehradun, Mehu Wala Mafi, Uttarakhand 248007, India

Institution Name:

Forest Survey of India (FSI)

Email address:

dgfsi@fsi.nic.in

Address:

Kaulagarh Road, P.O. IPE Dehradun - 248195 Uttarakhand (India)

2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 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 and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

Target 1.2: The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

Target 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

Target 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

Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

5. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Increase in forest cover through afforestation Programs

Brief description of the action:

Large-scale afforestation programs are being implemented under various schemes and programs namely Green India Mission, Nagar Van Yojana and Compensatory Afforestation Fund. The Green India Mission, aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover by restoring degraded forest lands and undertaking afforestation activities in the forest and non-forest areas. The Government of India also supports Nagar Van Yojana that aims at significantly enhancing the forests and green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas and augmenting biological diversity. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund are being utilized by States and UTs for taking up various afforestation and forest protection activities. Launched in 2023, the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) aims to enhance climate resilience and coastal biodiversity by promoting mangrove afforestation in identified coastal districts.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes and schemes of line Ministries such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under schemes of State Government and UT Administrations.

Main results achieved for the action:

The India State of Forest Report (ISFR), published biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), assesses and monitors the country's forest resources since 1987 by using advanced satellite remote sensing technology combined with ground-truthing to provide detailed information on forest cover, tree cover outside forests (ToF), mangroves, bamboo-bearing areas, and forest carbon stock.

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 sq km which is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country. The total Forest Cover has an area of 7,15,342.61 sq km (21.76%) whereas the Tree Cover has an area of 1,12,014.34 sq km (3.41%). Between 2021 and 2023, India's combined forest and tree cover increased by 1,445 km²—including a 156 km² increase in forest cover and 1,289 km² in tree cover. The total Mangrove cover of the country is 4,991.68 sq km, which accounts for 0.15 % of the country's total geographical area. Between 2013-2023, Mangrove cover of the country has increased by 296.33 km², Very Dense forest increased by 3,465.12 km², whereas Moderately Dense Forest and Open Forest decreased by 1,043.23 km² and 2,480.11 km².

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.2
- 2.1
- 2.2
- 2.3
- 2.4

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.2

Weblink:

<https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023>; <https://moef.gov.in/green-india-mission-gim> ;
<https://nationalcampa.nic.in/dashboard/GuidelinesPDF/665052fa8dd59.pdf> ; <https://nams.nic.in> ;
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2088477>

Action (short title):

Expansion of Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, Tiger Reserves, and Biosphere Reserves

Brief description of the action:

India has expanded its network of wildlife conservation areas to secure critical habitats and promote biodiversity conservation. Currently there are 1134 number of high biodiversity and wildlife rich areas covering 1,87,162 sq kms including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation and community reserves.

Main results achieved for the action:

Between 2020 and February 2025 there has been an increase of 158 wildlife protected areas covering 12,011 sq km.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.2
- 2.1
- 2.2
- 5.1
- 6.2

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.1
- 15.2

Weblink:

https://wiienviis.nic.in/Database/Protected_Area_854.aspx

Action (short title):

Tree Plantation Campaign – Plant4Mother (Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam)

Brief description of the action:

The Plant4Mother campaign, launched in June 2024, is a national effort to motivate individuals to plant trees in honour of their mothers. The Meri LiFE portal facilitated digital reporting, API-based data integration, and transparency. Participation was recorded from all sections of society—ministries, public sector units, private firms, NGOs, educational institutions, and Indian embassies abroad. The campaign was synergized with funds and activities under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Green India Mission, and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund to maximize coverage and impact.

Main results achieved for the action:

From June 2024 to March 2025, over 1.4 billion seedlings were planted and digitally recorded across all districts of India.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
1.4
2.1
2.3
2.4
2.5

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://merilife.nic.in/>; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=2059055>

Target 1.2: The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

6. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Increase in Forest Carbon Stock

Brief description of the action:

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) {<https://fsi.nic.in>} conducts biennial assessments of forest and tree cover, and estimates carbon stock across five pools: above/below ground biomass, litter, deadwood, and soil. Remote sensing and field inventory methods aligned with IPCC guidelines ensure accuracy for national and international reporting. These assessments also feed into the monitoring of India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Main results achieved for the action:

According to India's Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR-4), the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector remained a significant net carbon sink, sequestering approximately 522 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2020. As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, the country's total forest carbon stock was estimated at 7,285.5 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, reflecting a steady increase in carbon sequestration capacity. As of 2021, India had created an estimated 2.29 billion tonnes of additional CO₂e as compared to 2005 level against its NDC forestry goal of 2.5–3.0 billion tonnes by 2030.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
2.1
2.2
5.1
6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023> ; <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/India%20BUR-4.pdf>

Target 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

7. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Scientific Forest Management through long term Working Plans

Brief description of the action:

India implements scientific management of forests through Working Plans developed under the National Working Plan Code, which is periodically updated based on emerging national and global priorities. The 2023 version mandates climate-resilient and biodiversity-sensitive planning, and enhancement of carbon stock across landscapes. These plans are supported by geospatial mapping, forest inventory systems, and satellite-based monitoring for evidence-based decision-making. Forest divisions are required to prepare ten-year Working Plans incorporating forest condition assessments and eco-restoration strategies.

The Indian Forest Management Standard (IFMS) is a central feature of the National Working Plan Code, 2023. It is a set of eight measurable, outcome-oriented criteria developed to ensure scientific and sustainable forest management across India. The IFMS aligns with international benchmarks while adapting to India's ecological and social contexts. The Code also ensures periodic monitoring and performance evaluation through digitised tools.

Main results achieved for the action:

The National Working Plan Code bring in uniformity in Forest Planning by creating a cohesive framework across all Indian states, improving consistency. The working plans bring in Science Based Management by integrating techniques including grid based sampling, remote sensing and GIS to enhance data integrity and decision making capacity.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.1
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6

Weblink:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1933043>; <https://moef.gov.in/important-links-4>

Action (short title):

Afforestation and Landscape-Level Restoration

Brief description of the action:

Afforestation programs are undertaken on a landscape-based approach to restore degraded forest areas under the National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission, Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI). These interventions target degraded forest and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity corridors, and riverine catchments. Projects such as the Aravalli Green Wall and Namami Gange integrate afforestation alongside soil and moisture conservation, carbon sequestration, and livelihood improvement. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes and schemes of line Ministries such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under schemes of State Government and UT Administrations.

Main results achieved for the action:

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 sq km which is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country. The total Forest Cover has an area of 7,15,342.61 sq km (21.76%) whereas the Tree Cover has an area of 1,12,014.34 sq km (3.41%). Between 2021 and 2023, India's combined forest and tree cover increased by 1,445 km²—including a 156 km² increase in forest cover and 1,289 km² in tree cover. The total Mangrove cover of the country is 4,991.68 sq km, which accounts for 0.15 % of the country's total geographical area. Between 2013-2023, Mangrove cover of the country has increased by 296.33 km², Very Dense forest increased by 3,465.12 km², whereas Moderately Dense Forest and Open Forest decreased by 1,043.23 km² and 2,480.11 km².

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.1
2.2
2.3
5.1
5.2
6.1
6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023>; <https://moef.gov.in/schemes-and-programmes>;
<https://nationalcampa.nic.in/dashboard/GuidelinesPDF/665052fa8dd59.pdf>;
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2133734>

Target 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

8. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Integrated Forest Fire Management Strategy

Brief description of the action:

India is implementing an integrated forest fire management strategy with active participation of central and state governments. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) plays a key role through real-time forest fire monitoring using MODIS and SNPP-VIIRS data, offering four alerts daily under its Near Real-Time Forest Fire Monitoring system. FSI also issues pre-fire alerts weekly, large fire alerts twice daily, and undertakes burnt area assessments and risk zonation mapping. The Van Agni geoportal, launched by FSI, integrates these datasets with ground reports to provide a unified public interface. The Government of India is also implementing the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme to support State Governments in forest fire prevention, management and control. Community involvement in forest fire management in India is a crucial component through involvement of Joint Forest Management (JFM) Committees, Community Training & Capacity Building, and Incentive & Reward Mechanisms.

Main results achieved for the action:

Forest fire alerts and burnt area incidences have shown a decline due to intensive monitoring, early detection and mitigation.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
3.1
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2002625>

Action (short title):

Integrating Climate Resilience in Forest Working Plans

Brief description of the action:

The National Working Plan Code (NWPC) 2023 is a key policy instrument for guiding the scientific, sustainable, and climate-resilient management of forests. Climate change is now a central consideration in the new Working Plan Code. Geospatial technologies and forest inventory tools help in identifying high-risk zones for forest fire, floods, landslides, and drought. State Forest Departments use these tools for resilience planning, while agencies like Forest Survey of India (FSI) and National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) assist with spatial modelling.

Main results achieved for the action:

The working plans being developed under the National Working Plan Code 2023 integrates climate adaptation measures.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
5.1
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: SDG 13.2, SDG 13.3

Weblink:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1907678&utm.com>; <https://moef.gov.in/important-links-4>

Action (short title):

Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) Program

Brief description of the action:

Mangrove conservation in India is a priority environmental and climate action, as mangroves play a crucial role in coastal protection, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood support. India has some of the largest and most diverse mangrove ecosystems in the world, spread across nine coastal states and union territories. The 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)' was launched during 2023-24 to promote and conserve mangroves as a unique, natural eco-system having very high biological productivity and carbon sequestration potential, besides working as a bio shield. Accordingly, MISHTI was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on the occasion of World Environment Day i.e., 5th June 2023. MISHTI envisages restoration and reforestation of Mangroves covering approximately 540 km², spread across 9 States and 4 Union Territories for a period of five years commencing 2023-24 onwards.

Main results achieved for the action:

The States have been encouraged to take activities under MISHTI through convergence with the existing schemes/programs. The total Mangrove cover of the country is 4,991.68 sq km, which accounts for 0.15 % of the country's total geographical area. Mangrove cover of the country has increased by 296.33 sq km between 2013 to 2023.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2002625>

Global Forest Goal 1 Challenges

9. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 1 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Recurring forest fires continue to pose a major threat to biodiversity, carbon stock, and restoration gains. While India has advanced in early warning and monitoring systems, fire-prone landscapes still face seasonal vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change. Ensuring adequate fire preparedness, response coordination, and local capacity remains critical to reducing ecological and economic losses is a challenge.

3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

Target 2.2: Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

Target 2.4: The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased

Target 2.5: The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

10. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Brief description of the action:

India recognizes the rights of forest-dependent communities under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The Forest Right Act recognizes and vests forest rights, including rights to occupation, and access to forest resources, in forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The Act provides for both individual forest rights and community rights and aims to ensure the livelihoods and food security of forest-dwelling communities by providing them with secure access to forest resources.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://tribal.nic.in/FRA.aspx>

Action (short title):

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Brief description of the action:

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, is a comprehensive law aimed at conserving biological diversity, promoting its sustainable use, and ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of biological resources and associated knowledge. It establishes a three-tiered structure for implementation, involving the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) at the state level, and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level.

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has further strengthened these efforts by facilitating community-led conservation through Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and the documentation of local biological diversity in People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). BMCs ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing when biological resources are accessed, uphold traditional knowledge, and promote sustainable use at the grassroots level.

Main results achieved for the action:

There are more than 277,000 Biodiversity Management Committees and over 90,000 JFMs across India. These grassroots institutions play a vital role in conserving local biodiversity, managing forest resources sustainably, and ensuring community participation in environmental decision-making.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: SDG 1.5, SDG 15.1, SDG 15.5, SDG 8.5, SDG 8.9

Weblink:

<http://www.nbaindia.org/>

Action (short title):

Promotion of Agroforestry

Brief description of the action:

India's National Agroforestry Policy, 2014, aims to integrate trees with agriculture and other land uses to improve livelihoods, enhance productivity, and promote environmental sustainability. It aims to improve the productivity, employment, income, and livelihoods of rural households, especially smallholder farmers, through agroforestry practices. The Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) is a scheme launched by Government of India to promote tree plantation on farmland alongside crops and livestock. SMAF is implemented under the National Agroforestry Policy and encourages farmers to integrate multi-purpose trees with agricultural practices.

Main results achieved for the action:

According to ISFR 2023, the area under recorded tree cover is 1,12,014.34 sq km and has shown a net increase of 1,289 km² since 2021. Total tree green cover under agroforestry at the national level has been estimated at 1,27,590.05 sq km in 2023 with increase of 21,286.57 sq km (20.02%) as compared to 2013. The total growing stock under agroforestry in the country is estimated at 1,291.68 M cum in 2023 with an increase of 286.94 M cum (28.56 %) as compared to 2013.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: SDG 1.5, SDG 8.5, SDG 8.9

Weblink:

https://nmsa.dac.gov.in/pdfdoc/Agroforestry_Guidelines_new_English.pdf; <https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023>;
<https://www.nitforstates.gov.in/public-assets/Policy/policy-repo/agriculture-and-allied-services/PNC511A000509.pdf>

Target 2.2: Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

11. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Promoting Wood-Based Industries for supporting agroforestry

Brief description of the action:

In order to support processing and value addition of agroforestry produce, wood-based industries are promoted by enabling necessary policy environment. The National Transit Pass System (NTPS), launched in December 2023, facilitates seamless transit of timber and other forest produce while ensuring traceability.

Main results achieved for the action:

The National Transit Pass System (NTPS) has enabled seamless transit of timber and other forest produce across the country. This has encouraged agroforestry and along with ancillary wood based industries. The area under agroforestry has expanded to 127,590.05 sq km in 2023, which has resulted in increase of domestic raw material availability for Wood Based Industries.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
4.2
5.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://ntps.nic.in/> ; <https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1991540>

Action (short title):

Institutional Support for NTFP Value Chains

Brief description of the action:

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) remain vital to the livelihoods of tribal and forest-dependent communities. India enhances NTFP-based income generation through initiatives like the Van Dhan Yojana, the Minimum Support Price scheme for Minor Forest Produce (MFP), and State-led forest development corporations. These schemes support sustainable collection, storage, processing, grading, and marketing of NTFPs. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) helps link community enterprises with wider markets and trade platforms. Capacity-building and infrastructure investments have improved quality control and reduced post-harvest losses, supporting both conservation and income. Further, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implements various Schemes /Programs to promote Access to finance to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 2500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters in predominantly forested tribal districts are functioning to support more than 50,000 Self Help Groups covering more than 1.1 million beneficiaries for sustainable collection, storage, processing, grading, and marketing of NTFPs thereby creating the backward and forward linkages.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: SDG 1.5, SDG 8.5, SDG 8.9

Weblink:

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=2108385&utm_source.com

Action (short title):

Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme

Brief description of the action:

The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (PRAMAAN) was launched by the Government of India in 2023. This national forest certification scheme offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country. The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification. The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme can provide market incentives to various entities that adhere to responsible forest management and agroforestry practices in their operations. This includes state forest departments, individual farmers, or Farmer Producer Organizations engaged in agroforestry and farm forestry, as well as other wood-based industries in the value chain. The Forest Management certification is based on the Indian Forest Management Standard, consisting of 8 criteria, 69 indicators and 254 verifiers, which is an integral part of the National Working Plan Code 2023.

Main results achieved for the action:

Certification process under PRAMAAN for forest management as well as for agroforestry systems have been initiated in five States.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.1
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1985119>

Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

12. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Promotion of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)

Brief description of the action:

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and State Forest Departments implement mechanisms to promote sustainable harvesting, processing, and marketing of NTFPs. Initiatives such as the Van Dhan Yojana, supported by TRIFED, have operationalized Van Dhan Kendras that assist self-help groups with infrastructure, skill development, and market linkages. Additionally, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) ensures price assurance and income stability to primary collectors.

Main results achieved for the action:

A total of 87 items are covered under the Minimum Support Price scheme for MFPs. So far, over 2500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters in predominantly forested tribal districts are working to support more than 50,000 SHGs covering more than 1.1 million beneficiaries.

The Ministry of AYUSH, through the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), has supported over 72,000 hectares of indigenous and native species on degraded and forest fringe lands, thereby boosting ex-situ production and reducing pressure on wild populations. Round 112 Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs) are established, covering 22,200 hectares to promote native medicinal plant species. In order to encourage sustainable value chains and community-based forest management, the scheme also supported 1,189 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), Van Panchayats, and Biodiversity Management Committees for value addition activities such as drying, primary processing, and storage.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
Other, please specify: SDG 1.5, SDG 15.5, SDG 8.5, SDG 8.9

Weblink:

<https://trifed.tribal.gov.in/home>

Action (short title):

Integration of trees in farming systems

Brief description of the action:

The integration of trees into agricultural landscapes is promoted through the National Agroforestry Policy, 2014. The policy encourages the establishment of agroforestry systems that include food, fodder, fruit, and fuelwood species, thereby diversifying food systems while supporting climate resilience and ecosystem health.

Main results achieved for the action:

According to ISFR 2023, the total tree cover recorded is 1,12,014.34 sq km and has a net increase of 1,289 km², since 2021. Total tree cover under agroforestry at the national level has been estimated at 1,27,590.05 sq km in 2023 with increase of 21,286.57 sq km (20.02%) as compared to 2013. The total growing stock under agroforestry in the country is estimated at 1,291.68 M cum in 2023 with increase of 286.94 M cum (28.56%) as compared to 2013.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
5.1
6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.nitiforstates.gov.in/public-assets/Policy/policy-repo/agriculture-and-allied-services/PNC511A000509.pdf> ;
<https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023>

Target 2.4: The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased

13. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Promotion of wood-based industries and value chains

Brief description of the action:

In order to support processing and value addition of agroforestry produce, wood-based industries are promoted. Many States and Union Territories have rationalized felling and transit regimes for tree crops originating from agroforestry. The National Transit Pass System (NTPS), launched in 2023, has enabled seamless transit of timber and other forest produce across the country. Investment in timber-based start-ups, particularly in bamboo and furniture segments, has also been supported through start-up and incubation schemes.

Main results achieved for the action:

Creating an enabling environment for setting up of Wood Based Industries for value addition of produce originating from agroforestry.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
4.1
4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://ntps.nic.in/> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1991540>

Action (short title):

Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana

Brief description of the action:

The Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) is a flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 2018, with the objective of empowering tribal communities by enhancing their livelihoods through the value addition of Minor Forest Produce (MFP). Implemented by TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India), the scheme is designed to tap into the traditional knowledge and forest-based skills of tribal people, helping them transition from raw material collectors to forest-based entrepreneurs.

Under PMVDY, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) are established across the country. Each Kendra typically supports around 300 tribal beneficiaries who are organized into Self Help Groups (SHGs). These Kendras are equipped with basic infrastructure for primary processing, packaging, storage, and marketing of MFPs like tamarind, mahua, honey, tendu leaves, lac, sal seeds, and medicinal plants. Training is provided in sustainable harvesting practices, value addition, enterprise development, and market access.

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 2500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters in predominantly forested tribal districts are functioning to support more than 50,000 SHGs covering more than 1.1 million beneficiaries, across 27 states and union territories.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: SDG 1.5, SDG 8.5, SDG 8.9

Weblink:

<https://trifed.tribal.gov.in/home> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1539321>

Action (short title):

Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) scheme

Brief description of the action:

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, to safeguard the livelihoods of tribal and forest-dependent communities. Implemented through TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India), this scheme aims to ensure that forest dependent communities receive a fair and guaranteed price for the Minor Forest Produce they collect, which includes items like tendu leaves, mahua seeds, lac, tamarind, sal seeds, honey, and various medicinal plants. The scheme also supports value addition and market linkage through convergence with other programs such as Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) and Skill India, enabling forest-dependent communities to not only collect but also process and sell high-value forest products.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Minimum Support Price scheme provides price support mechanism for primary collectors for 87 minor forest produce items, ensuring that they receive fair and remunerative prices for their produce. The scheme also supports tribal entrepreneurs with training, processing, packaging, and marketing of forest products, thus creating sustainable rural livelihoods and promoting entrepreneurship, especially among tribal women and youth.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://trifed.tribal.gov.in/program/non-timber> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1557528>

Target 2.5: The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

14. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forests ecosystems and its contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation

Brief description of the action:

As one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, India is home to a wide range of forest types, from tropical rainforests in the Western Ghats to alpine forests in the Himalayas. India has established four legally designated categories of Protected Areas namely National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, and Community Reserves for protection and safeguarding biodiversity, allow in situ conservation alongside the maintenance of ecological, species, and genetic diversity. Besides Protected Areas, there are Recorded Forest Areas, under legal categories of 'Reserved Forests, Protected Forests etc. The range of protected area coverage including Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) are reflected in the India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2030 (NBSAP).

Under India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, India has committed to creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent through forest and tree cover by 2030. Programs such as the Green India Mission (GIM) and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund focus on afforestation, reforestation, and restoration of degraded ecosystems, thereby increasing forest carbon stock and ecosystem services.

Main results achieved for the action:

India's forest and tree cover increased to 25.17% of the total geographical area by 2023 as per ISFR-2023. India has updated its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), incorporating the 2030 global biodiversity targets into national conservation priorities and implementation pathways. As of 2021, India had created an estimated 2.29 billion tonnes of additional CO₂e as compared to 2005 level against its NDC forestry goal of 2.5–3.0 billion tonnes by 2030.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2115837> ; <https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023> ;
<http://www.nbaindia.org/> ; <https://unfccc.int/documents/645149> ;
https://wiienvi.nic.in/Database/Protected_Area_854.aspx

Action (short title):

Brief description of the action:

Main results achieved for the action:

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 2 Challenges

15. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 2 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

1. Climate Change Vulnerability: Forests and forest-dependent people are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including increased frequency of floods, droughts, forest fires, and erratic rainfall.
2. Forests provide a wide array of ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, water purification, soil conservation, biodiversity preservation, and cultural and recreational value. These services are essential for ecological balance and human well-being, but they are not adequately reflected in economic valuations.

4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 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

Target 3.1: The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

Target 3.2: The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

Target 3.3: The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 3.1: The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

16. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Coverage of Recorded Forest Areas in India

Brief description of the action:

The Recorded Forest Areas in the country are mainly categorised as 'Reserved Forests (RFs), Protected Forests (PFs), and Un-Demarcated Forests (UDFs) or Un-Classified Forests (UCFs). Apart from this, forest areas are also designated as village forests, revenue forests etc under various states and Union Territories. The National Working Plan Code (2023) ensures that these forests are sustainably managed through site-specific plans that integrate biodiversity protection, community participation, and climate resilience.

Main results achieved for the action:

As per the India State of Forest Report 2023, the total Recorded Forest Area (RFA) is 771,149 square kilometres, comprising Reserved Forests - 440,084 sq km; Protected Forests- 215,380 sq km and Unclassed Forests- 115,685 sq km.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.4
3.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023> ; <https://moef.gov.in/important-links-4>

Action (short title):

Expansion of Protected Area network comprising of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves

Brief description of the action:

India continues to expand and strengthen its protected area network to conserve habitats of endemic and threatened species. As part of its commitment to biodiversity conservation, the country has notified a total of 1,134 protected areas covering 187,162 square kilometres, which include national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves.

Main results achieved for the action:

Between 2020 and February 2025, 158 new protected areas have been added, covering 12,011 sq km. This expansion has reinforced conservation efforts across biogeographic zones and contributed to better protection of key species and ecosystems through improved landscape connectivity.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

https://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/Protected_Area_854.aspx

Action (short title):

Expansion of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Brief description of the action:

India has set aside Conservation Areas, focusing on conservation of species like tiger, elephant, snow leopard, etc. or ecosystems/ special habitats like, wetlands, coastal regulation zones (CRZ), and eco sensitive zones (ESZ) either under various national or state laws relevant to forests, environment and biodiversity. Various legal instrument based conservation areas include Tiger Reserves declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Eco-Sensitive Zones under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Wetlands under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017; and Biodiversity Heritage sites under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Area based conservation measures are also undertaken under International Conventions and Agreements namely Ramsar Sites under the Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Sites under the World Heritage Convention and Biosphere Reserves under the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere's Programme.

Further, Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures designated in India include Community Conserved Areas, Sacred Groves, Key Biodiversity Areas, Important Bird Areas etc.

Main results achieved for the action:

India has recognized a wide spectrum of area-based conservation instruments and updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2030.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
2.3
2.4
3.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<http://www.nbaindia.org/> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2004012>

Target 3.2: The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

17. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Implementation of the National Working Plan Code 2023

Brief description of the action:

Forest divisions in India are managed through long-term working plans guided by the National Working Plan Code, ensuring integration of sustainable forest management principles. The National Working Plan Code, last revised in 2023, emphasizes on an ecosystem-based approach, aligning forest management with goals related to biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, water security, and livelihoods. The National Working Plan Code is a guiding principle for State Forest Departments in preparation for the working plan for different forest divisions in the country. NWPC deals in detail with the essentials of forest management planning, incorporating the principles of sustainable management of forests. This includes extent and condition of forest and tree cover; maintenance, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity including wildlife, forest health and vitality; conservation and management of soil and water resources, enhancement of forest resource productivity, maintenance and enhancement of social, economic, cultural and spiritual benefits, and providing the appropriate policy, legal and institutional framework.

Main results achieved for the action:

Forest divisions in the country are governed by long-term management plans/ working plans prepared on the basis of principles of sustainable forest management and recognized and innovative silvicultural practices.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.1
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://moef.gov.in/important-links-4> ; https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1985119&utm_source=com

Action (short title):

Scientific Management Planning under Project Tiger

Brief description of the action:

India has institutionalised scientific management of tiger habitats through well-defined Tiger Conservation Plans, implemented across all designated Tiger Reserves under Project Tiger. These plans are formulated and periodically updated in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). They incorporate modern technologies like M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers–Intensive Protection and Ecological Status), camera trapping, satellite-based remote sensing, and GIS mapping for adaptive, landscape-based conservation. The plans also ensure community participation and ecological sustainability while addressing habitat connectivity and climate resilience.

Main results achieved for the action:

As of 2024, 58 Tiger Reserves have been notified in India, covering approximately 78,000 square kilometres, accounting for about 2.4% of India's geographical area. All tiger reserves are managed under approved scientific Tiger Conservation Plans. These efforts have supported population recovery, improved monitoring, and strengthened anti-poaching efforts.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.1
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

https://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/trd_8222.aspx ; <https://ntca.gov.in/>

Action (short title):

Preparation and Implementation of Management Plans under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Brief description of the action:

India mandates the preparation of scientific management plans for all protected areas under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. These management plans are developed by State Forest Departments and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden or relevant authorities. The plans aim to conserve biodiversity, protect habitats, manage human-wildlife interactions, and ensure the sustainable use of ecosystem services. They incorporate spatial data, species-specific conservation strategies, habitat improvement measures, and participatory approaches involving local communities. The plans also integrate climate resilience, ecological monitoring, and restoration strategies tailored to site-specific needs.

Main results achieved for the action:

Management of protected areas involving National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are undertaken through approved management plans.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

https://www.moef.gov.in/index.php/wildlife-wl?utm_source.com ;
https://cpc.parivesh.nic.in/writereaddata/guidelines_for_process_managemene_process_for_PA.pdf

Target 3.3: The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

18. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Recorded Forest Areas are mandated to be managed through approved Working Plans

Brief description of the action:

In India, Forest Working Plans are mandatory tools for the scientific and sustainable management of forest areas. These are detailed, site-specific, and time-bound documents, typically prepared for a ten-year period, that guide the operational activities of forest departments. The working plans aim to balance ecological integrity, biodiversity conservation, requirements of local communities and productivity by providing structured management prescriptions based on forest resource assessments. The Working Plans are guided by the Working Plan Code issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Each working plan prepared for a forest division has to be approved based on detailed provisions laid out by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The harvesting of forest produce and silvicultural removal from forest lands are to be undertaken mandatorily based on the provisions of approved Working Plans.

Each Forest Working Plan includes a comprehensive assessment of forest types, timber and non-timber resources, wildlife, and ecosystem services. It outlines specific management objectives, which may focus on production forestry, conservation, eco-tourism, or watershed protection, depending on the ecological and social context of the area. Forest areas are compartmentalized for systematic operations, and the plan prescribes silvicultural practices such as harvesting, regeneration, plantation, and restoration. Biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, fire management, and control of invasive species are also incorporated. The plans also aim to promote community participation ensuring that the needs of forest dependent communities are incorporated.

Main results achieved for the action:

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
5.1
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: SDG 1.5, SDG 13.2, SDG 13.3, SDG 15.1, SDG 15.5, SDG 8.5, SDG 8.9

Weblink:

<https://moef.gov.in/important-links-4> ; https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1933043&utm_source.com

Global Forest Goal 3 Challenges

19. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 3 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.

5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

Target 4.1: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

Target 4.2: Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

Target 4.3: North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

Target 4.4: The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 4.1: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

20. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forestry sector schemes and programmes supported by State and Central Governments

Brief description of the action:

India implements large-scale afforestation programs under various schemes and programs namely Green India Mission, Nagar Van Yojana and Compensatory Afforestation Fund. The Green India Mission, aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover by restoring degraded forest lands and undertaking afforestation activities in the forest and non-forest areas. The Government of India also supports Nagar Van Yojana that aims at significantly enhancing the forests and green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas and augmenting biological diversity. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund are being utilized by States and Union Territories for taking up various afforestation and forest protection activities. Launched in 2023, the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) aims to enhance climate resilience and coastal biodiversity by promoting mangrove afforestation in identified coastal districts.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes and schemes of line Ministries such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under schemes of State Government and UT Administrations.

Additionally, the Ministry of AYUSH, through the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), has contributed significantly to sustainable forest management by promoting both ex-situ cultivation and in-situ conservation of medicinal plant species.

Main results achieved for the action:

Implementation of forestry sector programmes is increasingly being undertaken through convergence with multiple Central and State schemes to maximize ecological impact, improve cost-efficiency, and generate co-benefits for climate, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.1
2.2
2.3
5.1
5.2
6.1
6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://moef.gov.in/> ; <https://nationalcampa.nic.in/> ; <https://nbm.da.gov.in/> ;
https://nrega.dord.gov.in/MGNREGA_new/Nrega_home.aspx ;

Action (short title):

Green Credit Programme

Brief description of the action:

The Government of India launched the Green Credit Program (GCP), during 2023 to encourage entities to undertake voluntary environmental measures inter-alia "tree plantation" activities for increasing the green cover across the country and issuance of green credit. This program is designed to incentivize individuals and entities to take up afforestation and restoration of degraded forest lands.

Main results achieved for the action:

Restoration of degraded forest lands have been initiated under the Green Credit Programme over an area of more than 26,000 ha.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.1
2.2
2.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.moefcc-gcp.in/> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1989495>

Target 4.1: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

21. Since 2020, has your country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes

**22. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Public domestic funding
Private domestic funding
Public international funding, including official development assistance
Private international funding

23. If no, please describe the main challenges encountered:

Target 4.2: Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

24. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forestry sector development projects through bilateral and multilateral financial resource mobilisation

Brief description of the action:

Forestry sector development projects are being implemented through bilateral and multilateral financial resource mobilisation including Global Environment Facility (GEF). These projects promote eco-restoration, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, gender-responsive governance, and sustainable livelihoods. Designed in close consultation with States, the projects are implemented through State Forest Departments and national nodal agencies.

Main results achieved for the action:

Externally aided forestry sector development projects are being implemented through various State Forest Departments and national nodal agencies.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.moef.gov.in/index.php/ongoing-projects?>

Target 4.3: North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

25. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Cheetah Reintroduction under South–South Cooperation

Brief description of the action:

India's Project Cheetah, launched in 2022, marks the world's first intercontinental large-carnivore translocation. In partnership with Namibia and South Africa, the initiative aims to restore the cheetah to its historical range in India, thereby contributing to grassland ecosystem restoration and global conservation goals. The project is being implemented in by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India, and relevant partners. Simultaneously, emphasis is also towards expanding cheetah-compatible habitats beyond Kuno National Park, with Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Nauradehi, and other sites in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan identified for future introduction.

Main results achieved for the action:

- 20 cheetahs (8 from Namibia in September 2022 and 12 from South Africa in February 2023) have been successfully translocated to Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. Currently, there are 28 cheetahs in Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The project has enabled sustained technical cooperation, training exchanges, and the development of joint species recovery protocols between Indian and African experts.

With future habitat expansion and phased introductions, the initiative offers a replicable model for transboundary species recovery, rooted in science and Global South partnerships

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.4
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://ntca.gov.in/project-cheetah-kuno-np/#project-cheetah> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1922515>

Action (short title):

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Brief description of the action:

India launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) in 2023 as a global platform to strengthen collaborative conservation efforts for seven big cat species- Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah. The alliance promotes coordinated strategies for species protection, habitat conservation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange among countries and partners. IBCA is, therefore, crucial since it aims to unite big cat range countries, non-range countries interested in conservation, conservation partners, scientific organizations, and business groups willing to support big cat conservation.

Main results achieved for the action:

As of 2025, 11 countries have joined the alliance. IBCA has initiated structured engagement among participating nations to share best practices and identify financing and technical cooperation pathways for species conservation. It serves as a unique multilateral platform to enhance the transparency, effectiveness, and accountability of conservation finance for big cats.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 2.1
- 2.2
- 2.3
- 5.1
- 5.2
- 6.1
- 6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.2

Weblink:

<https://ibca.world/> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2010122>

Action (short title):

India hosted the Country-Led Initiative under UN Forum on Forests in 2023

Brief description of the action:

India hosted the Country-Led Initiative (CLI) in October 2023 under the United Nations Forum on Forests and brought together close to 120 delegates from 40 countries and 20 international organizations. The meeting, was conducted in Dehradun in Uttarakhand State and discussed on the topics involving forest fires/wildfires, Forest Certification and Sustainable Forest Management through two plenary sessions over the two days. Both the plenary sessions witnessed context-setting presentations, country presentations, and interactive sessions.

Main results achieved for the action:

The CLI brought out a summary of recommendations that emanated from discussions on forest fires/wildfires which include, adopting an integrated approach to prevent and manage forest fires/wildfires and post-fire landscape restoration through policy interventions; Incorporating technology and digital solutions to enhance forest governance and monitoring; Strengthening the involvement of civil society, focusing on capacity building and recognizing the roles of youth and The CLI brought out a summary of recommendations that emanated from discussions on forest fires/wildfires which include, adopting an integrated approach to prevent and manage forest fires/wildfires and post-fire landscape restoration through policy interventions; Incorporating technology and digital solutions to enhance forest governance and monitoring; Strengthening the involvement of civil society, focusing on capacity building and recognizing the roles of youth and women as important stakeholders in enforcing on-ground implementation of integrated forest fire/wildfire management strategies; and Fostering regional, inter-continental, and international cooperation for the management of transboundary forest fires/wildfires.

The key recommendations that were derived from the interaction session on Forest Certification and Sustainable Forest Management include, establishing universally accepted benchmarking standards for forest certification for adoption at a global scale and evaluating current certification programmes with respect to the universal standards; enhancing international cooperation between producer and consumer countries for acceptance of forest certification schemes that are based on international standards; and promoting UN-based international exchange of knowledge about national and regional regulations, approaches, and international standards for enhancing trade efficiency.

The outcomes of the CLI were presented by India at the 18th session of UNFF.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.1
2.4
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/unff-india-cli-2023/index.html> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1970686>

Target 4.3: North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

26. Is your country engaged in international cooperation and/or public-private partnerships to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes

**27. If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:
(Select all that apply)**

Governments
Intergovernmental organizations and/or processes
Private sector
Non-governmental organizations

**28. Please specify the types of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

North-South
South-South

**29. Please specify the areas of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

Science
Technology
Innovation
Other, please specify: Traditional Knowledge and wisdoms

Target 4.4: The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

30. Since 2020, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

31. Since 2020, has your country had access to financing to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

**32. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Public domestic funding
Private domestic funding
Public international funding, including official development assistance

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

33. Has the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information in your country, for example, through multidisciplinary scientific assessments, improved since 2020?

Yes

34. If yes, please describe any improvements (maximum 250 words).

The India State of Forest Report (ISFR), published biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), provides comprehensive data on forest cover, carbon stock, and forest fire vulnerability. Forest fire monitoring is further strengthened through the Van Agni portal, which uses satellite-based inputs to generate real-time alerts and support early response systems.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has established NIRANTAR (National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience) as a virtual platform for integrating research across its institutions. NIRANTAR serves as a central repository of scientific studies, technologies, and publications, promoting knowledge-sharing, avoiding duplication, and supporting evidence-based policy development.

The PARIVESH portal acts as a single-window platform of inter-agency coordination for assessing environmental, forest, wildlife, and coastal zone issues in projects embedding ecological safeguards into project planning. The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan complements this by offering spatial integration of ecological data with infrastructure planning, helping to avoid conflicts with forested and sensitive areas early in the project design stage.

Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (PRAMAAN) facilitates certification and traceability of agroforestry timber, ensuring legal sourcing and supporting farmer income through access to formal markets. The National Transit Pass System (NTPS) provides a digital system for inter- and intra-state movement of tree-based produce, promoting ease of doing business and transparent regulation.

Further, more than 277,000 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have developed People's Biodiversity Registers, documenting traditional knowledge and biodiversity at the local level for informed conservation and sustainable.

35. Does your country carry out a National Forest Inventory?

Yes

36. If yes, what year was the most recent inventory completed?

2023

Global Forest Goal 4 Challenges

**37. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 4 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.**

- Private sector participation in sustainable forest financing is limited.

6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Target 5.1: Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

Target 5.2: Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

Target 5.3: National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Target 5.4: Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 5.1: Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

38. In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes

39. If yes, please specify which:
(Select both, if applicable)

National sustainable development plans
Poverty reduction strategies

Target 5.2: Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

40. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Implementation of National Forest Policy Objectives

Brief description of the action:

India's forest governance is guided by the National Forest Policy, 1988, which envisions bringing at least one-third of the total land area under forest or tree cover and two-thirds in hilly and mountainous regions. The Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the State Forest Acts provide legal frameworks for the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of forest lands. These are complemented by key legislations such as the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which safeguards biodiversity and endangered species; the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 [Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980], which regulates the use of forest land for non-forest purposes; and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which provides overarching powers to address environmental threats and ensure ecological balance. To strengthen sustainable forest management, scientific working plans are mandatory for all forest divisions. The National Working Plan Code (2023) and Indian Forest Management Standards institutionalize ecosystem-based, climate-resilient forest planning, incorporating global and national best practices in monitoring, productivity enhancement, and carbon stock improvement.

Main results achieved for the action:

Various legislations aimed towards Forest governance are being periodically amended and updated to meet the changing needs and to reflect priorities including ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood integration, while also aligning with international commitments.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.1
2.2
3.1
5.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
Other, please specify: SDG- 15.5, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2

Weblink:

<https://moef.gov.in/>

Action (short title):

Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation through Amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act

Brief description of the action:

India undertook a significant reform of its wildlife conservation framework through the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022. The amendment enhances compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) by creating a dedicated schedule for CITES-listed species, regulating their trade and possession.

Main results achieved for the action:

The 2022 amendment enables effective implementation of CITES, ensures better protection of endangered species, and strengthens inter-state and international cooperation on wildlife crime prevention.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
6.6
15.1

Weblink:

<https://moef.gov.in/> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2011928>

Action (short title):

Strengthening Biodiversity Governance through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Brief description of the action:

India's commitment to conserving biodiversity and ensuring equitable benefit sharing is enshrined in the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which aligns with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Act provides a robust legal framework for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. It establishes a three-tier institutional structure comprising the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, and over 277,000 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level. These institutions facilitate participatory governance and ensure the documentation of local biodiversity through People's Biodiversity Registers. The Act also regulates access to biological resources and promotes benefit-sharing mechanisms through legally binding Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements, incentivising conservation and recognising the role of local and indigenous communities.

Main results achieved for the action:

Numerous ABS agreements have been formalised, ensuring recognition and reward for community-held knowledge. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Ministry of AYUSH supports conservation and sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants, enabling livelihood generation and reducing ecological pressure.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3
2.2
2.3
4.1
4.2
4.4
4.5
5.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<http://www.nbaindia.org/> ; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1809122>

Target 5.2: Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

41. Since 2020, has your government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes

42. If yes, please specify the type of action:

New legislation
Improved enforcement of existing legislation
Export controls
Import controls
Bilateral agreements between exporting and importing countries

Target 5.3: National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

43. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Brief description of the action:

Main results achieved for the action:

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 5.3: National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

44. Please describe what types of mechanisms are in place to involve stakeholders in the formulation, planning and/or implementation of forest-related policies and programmes (maximum 250 words).

India has recognized the rights of forest-dependent communities under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The Act recognizes and vests forest rights, including rights to occupation, and access to forest resources, in favor of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The Act provides for both individual forest rights and community rights and aims to enhance the livelihoods of forest-dwelling communities by providing them with secure access to forest resources.

In addition, Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) operate in partnership with State Forest Departments, enabling local communities to participate in afforestation, protection, and benefit-sharing.

Target 5.4: Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

45. In your country, have forests been integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development?

Yes

Global Forest Goal 5 Challenges

46. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 5 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.

7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets

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

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

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

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

47. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Integration through Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub (PARIVESH) Portal and PM Gati Shakti Platform

Brief description of the action:

India has adopted digital platforms to streamline inter-agency coordination in infrastructure planning. The PARIVESH portal, managed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, acts as a single-window system for processing environmental, forest, wildlife, and CRZ matters. It is integrated with State Forest Departments, Expert Appraisal Committees, and other line ministries to enhance efficiency. The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan complements this by offering spatial mapping of forest boundaries, biodiversity zones, and eco-sensitive areas. Cross-verification across ministries ensures environmental safeguards are embedded into project designs from the conceptual stage.

Main results achieved for the action:

A comprehensive Decision Support System (DSS) based on spatial and environmental data has been developed, enabling effective planning and informed decision making.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
5.1
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

https://pmgatishakti.gov.in/pmgatishakti/about_pmgati ; <https://parivesh.nic.in/#/about> ;
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1989495&utm_source

Action (short title):

National Transit Pass System for Seamless Timber Movement

Brief description of the action:

The National Transit Pass System (NTPS) is a digital platform designed to streamline the issuance of transit permits for transportation of timber and other forest produce. It enhances traceability and enables ease of doing business for agroforestry produce benefiting farmers and tree growers. NTPS enables seamless movement of timber across states supporting inter-agency coordination for verification and compliance.

Main results achieved for the action:

NTPS has been operationalized across 33 States and Union Territories.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
5.1
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://ntps.nic.in/> ; https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1883748&utm_source

Action (short title):

Van Agni Portal for Forest Fire Monitoring and Response

Brief description of the action:

The Van Agni system, operated by the Forest Survey of India, integrates with the FAST (Forest Alert System) to automatically detect fire hotspots using MODIS and VIIRS satellite sensors, six times a day. Alerts are sent via SMS, email, and mobile app notifications to all stakeholders registered on the portal, including forest staff, local volunteers, and community members. State Forest Departments maintain control rooms to coordinate initial verification and resource deployment. The system features GIS-enabled dashboards and a Fire Danger Rating System, guiding real-time prioritization based on risk factors like vegetation type and proximity to human habitation. Operational support is provided through the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme, which funds the creation of fire lines, procurement of firefighting tools, training modules, and community awareness programs based on data collected during the generation of the alerts.

Main results achieved for the action:

Van Agni and FAST platforms are operational across all States and Union Territories. The integration of geospatial tools and coordinated response protocols has significantly reduced response time and damage from forest fires.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.3
5.2
6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: SDG 1.5, SDG 8.5, SDG 8.9

Weblink:

https://vanagniportal.fsiforestfire.gov.in/fsi_fire/fire.html ; <https://fsiforestfire.gov.in/> ;
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1881757>

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

48. Are mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation?

Yes

49. If yes, please specify the sectors involved:

Energy
Rural development
Land use
Climate change
Biodiversity

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

50. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Brief description of the action:

Main results achieved for the action:

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

51. Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes

52. If yes, please specify which sets of criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)

National or subnational

Regional or international (for instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests)

53. If yes, please specify for which of the following purposes the criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)

To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management

To monitor and assess forest conditions and management

To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management

To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders

To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):: International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR), Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

54. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Institutionalizing multi-stakeholder platforms and inclusive governance mechanisms

Brief description of the action:

India has embedded inclusive forest governance through legal and institutional mechanisms that actively involve indigenous communities, women's collectives, youth, scientific bodies, and civil society in planning, implementation, and monitoring of forest-related programs. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs plays a key role in securing individual forest rights and community titles to tribal communities and traditional forest dwellers. Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) serve as structured platforms for engagement in decision-making and benefit-sharing. India also promotes voluntary and corporate participation through campaigns like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' and through programs such as the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI). India also hosted the Country-Led Initiative (CLI) in 2023 in support of UNFF.

Main results achieved for the action:

There are more than 277,000 Biodiversity Management Committees and more than 90,000 JFMs across India. Stakeholder engagement is now central to large-scale programs and international dialogues, contributing to more inclusive implementation of the Global Forest Goals.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.1
2.2
2.3
5.1
5.2
6.1
6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
Other, please specify: SDG 1.5, SDG 11.7, SDG 13.2, SDG 13.3, SDG 15.5, SDG 8.5, SDG 8.9

Weblink:

<https://moef.gov.in/> ; <http://www.nbaindia.org/>

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

55. Since 2020, have major groups and other relevant stakeholders been involved in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

56. If yes, please describe their involvement in a maximum of 250 words:

Institutionalizing multi-stakeholder platforms and inclusive governance mechanisms:

India has embedded inclusive forest governance through legal and institutional mechanisms that actively involve indigenous communities, women's collectives, youth, scientific bodies, and civil society in planning, implementation, and monitoring of forest-related programs. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 being implemented by the

Ministry of Tribal Affairs plays a key role in securing individual forest rights and community titles to tribal communities and traditional forest dwellers. Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) serve as structured platforms for engagement in decision-making and benefit-sharing. India also promotes voluntary and corporate participation through campaigns like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' and through programs such as the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI). India also hosted the Country-Led Initiative (CLI) in 2023 in support of UNFF.

Main Results Achieved: There are more than 277,000 Biodiversity Management Committees and more than 90,000 JFMs across India. Stakeholder engagement is now central to large-scale programs and international dialogues, contributing to more inclusive implementation of the Global Forest Goals.

Global Forest Goal 6 Challenges

**57. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 6 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.**

8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets

58. In your opinion, what is the progress of your country towards the targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, since its adoption in 2017?

	Achieved	On track	Some progress	No change	Negative change	Not applicable
1.1 Forest area		X				
1.2 Carbon stock		X				
1.3 Implementation of SFM		X				
1.4 Resilience and adaptation		X				
2.1 Extreme poverty of forest dependent people		X				
2.2 Access to finance of small forest enterprises		X				
2.3 Food security		X				
2.4 Contribution to social economic and environmental development		X				
2.5 Contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation		X				
3.1 Protected areas		X				
3.2 Long-term forest management plans	X					
3.3 Products from sustainably managed forests		X				
4.1 Mobilization of resources for SFM		X				
4.2 Increased forest related financing			X			
4.3 Enhanced cooperation and partnerships		X				
4.4 Forest financing strategies and access to financing			X			
4.5 Forest-related information		X				
5.1 Integration of forests in national plans and strategies		X				
5.2 Enhancement of forest law enforcement and governance		X				
5.3 Coherence and coordination of policies and programmes		X				
5.4 Integration of forest related issues into land-use planning		X				
6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation		X				
6.4 Common understanding of concept of SFM indicator sets		X				
6.5 Strengthened involvement of stakeholders		X				

9. Voluntary National Contributions

59. Has your government announced any Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) related to the Global Forest Goals?

Yes

60. If yes, please provide a brief description, including information on timeframes and the progress made thus far. If your government has announced more than one Voluntary National Contribution, please click "Add another contribution" (can add up to ten).

Brief description:

Addition of 2 lakh hectares of forest and tree cover per year as part of contributing towards target 1.1 of Global Forest Goal

Progress to date:

Forest and Tree Cover Addition: Between ISFR 2015 and ISFR 2023, India's total forest and tree cover increased by 3.30 million hectares, from 79.42 million hectares to 82.72 million hectares. This corresponds to an average annual increase of about 412,000 hectares in forest and tree cover. The increase includes 1.35 million hectares in forest cover and 1.94 million hectares in tree cover outside forest areas.

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Brief description:

Achieving the 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO equivalent by additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Progress to date:

Carbon Sink Enhancement: India has achieved an estimated 2.29 billion tonnes of additional CO₂ equivalent as compared to 2005 level.

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Brief description:

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.

Progress to date:

Land Restoration: India has restored 22.5 million hectares of degraded land as of 2024 out of target of restoration of 26 million hectares to be restored by 2030.

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
6.3

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

10. Other questions: Gender equality

61. Since 2020, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes

**62. If yes, please indicate the purpose of the action taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:
(Select all that apply)**

Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources
Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels
Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions

63. Please provide a brief description of the actions taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:

India has integrated gender considerations into forest governance through policy and institutional mechanisms. Women's participation is crucial in Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs). Programs such as the Green India Mission promote women self-help groups for nursery raising, plantation, and forest protection activities. Women-led cooperatives are also actively engaged in processing and value addition of non-timber forest products. The Ministry of Women and Child Development supports convergence with forest-based rural development through schemes that empower women in forest fringe villages. Nutrition and health programs under POSHAN Abhiyaan, capacity-building through Self-Help Groups, and Mission Shakti have strengthened women's roles in afforestation, agroforestry, and NTFP value chains.

11. Other questions: International Day of Forests

**64. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?
(Select all that apply)**

Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)
Social media activities
Other, please specify: Plantation

65. Please provide up to three examples of actions taken in observance of International Day of Forests since 2020. If possible, include a weblink to relevant documentation.

International Forest Day Action:

India has commemorated the International Day of Forests (March 21) through nationwide activities focused on awareness, afforestation, and community engagement. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), in coordination with State Forest Departments, organized large-scale tree plantation drives, nature education programs, forest food festivals, exhibitions, and thematic campaigns aligned with the annual UN themes.

Notable initiatives include:

- Thematic Plantation Drives in urban parks, protected areas, and school campuses.
- Launch of tribal forest produce and agro-entrepreneurship initiatives, promoting forest-based livelihoods.
- Public engagement campaigns, including walkathons, photo contests, school competitions, and workshops on forest conservation.
- Joint events with local communities, JFMCs, and women self-help groups, reinforcing inclusive forest governance.

Weblink:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2113339&utm>

12. Success stories

66. Since 2020, does your country have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

67. If yes, provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and/or articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets. Please specify the relevant GFG targets.

You may provide up to three success stories by clicking on "Add another success story".

Title:

India State of Forest Report- Biennial forest assessment

Brief description:

The India State of Forest Report (ISFR), published biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), has been instrumental in assessing and monitoring the country's forest resources since 1987. It utilizes advanced satellite remote sensing technology combined with ground-truthing to provide detailed information on forest cover, tree cover outside forests (ToF), mangroves, bamboo-bearing areas, and forest carbon stock. This systematic and periodic assessment allows policymakers to track changes in forest cover, evaluate the success of afforestation and conservation programs, and respond effectively to issues such as deforestation and forest degradation.

The ISFR plays a crucial role in guiding national and state-level forest policies and contributes significantly to India's environmental planning. The data from ISFR is widely used for evidence-based decision-making in areas like restoration of degraded forest lands, eco-sensitive zone planning, wildlife habitat management, and carbon sequestration analysis. The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) provides reliable and consistent data on the extent and condition of forest and tree cover across India, which is essential for assessing the effectiveness of afforestation, reforestation, and conservation programs. This data supports the planning and implementation of key national initiatives such as the Green India Mission, the National Action Plan on Climate Change, and various state-level forest policies. ISFR is also a valuable tool for meeting India's international environmental commitments, including those under the Paris Agreement, by tracking forest carbon stock and contributing to climate change mitigation strategies. Additionally, the report aids in land use planning, identification of eco-sensitive zones, and biodiversity conservation by highlighting forest degradation and areas prone to forest fires.

Main results achieved:

The ISFR 2023 has enhanced the quality and standards of national forest assessment. One of the notable successes highlighted in recent ISFR editions, such as those of 2021 and 2023, is the steady increase in India's total forest and tree cover, which reflects the impact of ongoing afforestation efforts and forest conservation strategies. Additionally, by making its reports publicly available, the ISFR enhances transparency and raises awareness among citizens, environmental organizations, and research institutions. ISFR assesses not only forest and tree cover but also forest carbon stock, forest fire vulnerability, bamboo resources, mangrove ecosystems, wetlands within forest areas, and forest cover in tiger reserves. The 2023 report shows India has 827,357 sq km of total forest and tree cover—25.17% of its geographical area—with Very Dense Forests increasing by 3,465 sq km since 2013, highlighting improvement in forest quality. The increase in tree cover outside recorded forest lands also signifies accelerated growth in agroforestry systems.

GFG targets addressed:

1.1
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.3
3.1
4.3

Weblink:

<https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023>

Title:

Wetland conservation; and Project Tiger, Elephant and Lion

Brief description:

India's Leadership in Wetland Conservation through Ramsar Site Expansion and Community Stewardship:

India is home to a rich network of Ramsar sites, which are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. India has 91 Ramsar sites spread across diverse ecological regions, including coastal mangroves, freshwater lakes, marshes, and high-altitude wetlands. These sites play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity, supporting migratory birds, regulating water cycles, and providing livelihoods to local communities. Key Ramsar sites in India include the Sundarbans, Chilika Lake, Keoladeo National Park, and Vembanad-Kol wetlands. The designation of these wetlands has helped promote awareness, conservation efforts, and sustainable management practices. The Ramsar network in India underscores the country's commitment to preserving vital ecosystems that are essential for environmental health, climate resilience, and sustaining biodiversity on both national and global scales.

Project Tiger; Landscape approach to conservation:

Project Tiger, launched in 1973 by the Government of India, is a flagship wildlife conservation initiative aimed at protecting the endangered tiger and its natural habitat. The main components of the project include the establishment of tiger reserves, habitat restoration, anti-poaching efforts, and scientific monitoring of tiger populations. The project emphasizes community involvement by promoting eco-development and reducing human-wildlife conflicts around tiger habitats.

Project Lion – Community-Driven Conservation with Science and Sustainable Development:

Project Lion was launched in 2020 aimed at protecting and increasing the population of the Asiatic lion, which is found in the Gir Forests of Gujarat. The project focuses on habitat protection, reducing human-lion conflict, disease management, and scientific monitoring to ensure the survival of this endangered species. It also involves measures to expand the lion's range by establishing new habitats and corridors to reduce the risks of population concentration in a single location. Project Lion emphasizes community involvement and cooperation with local stakeholders to promote coexistence. Since its launch, the project has helped stabilize and gradually increase the Asiatic lion population, contributing to the conservation of this species and strengthening India's wildlife protection efforts.

Project Elephant- Landscape approach for managing habitat and elephant corridors and avoiding human-elephant conflicts:

Project Elephant was launched in 1992 with a three pronged objectives; one to protect habitats and corridors of elephants at landscape level, two to mitigation human-elephant negative interface and three, taking care of health and husbandry of elephants in captivity.

Main results achieved:

Wetland conservation:

1. As of June 2025, India hosts 91 Ramsar Sites spanning over 1.36 million hectares, the largest network of internationally recognised wetlands in Asia.
2. Over 65 new Ramsar sites have been added since 2014, including the recent designations of Khichan and Menar wetlands in Rajasthan.
3. The National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) has supported restoration and wise-use planning in over 160 wetlands across India.

Lessons: Integrated management approaches for wetland conservation that combines ecological preservation with the sustainable livelihoods of local communities, is most effective, ensuring that conservation efforts are socially inclusive and economically viable. The need for regular monitoring and scientific research to assess the health of wetlands and address threats such as pollution is paramount.

Additionally, raising public awareness and building capacity at the grassroots level are essential for fostering long-term commitment to wetland conservation.

Project Tiger:

Over the years, Project Tiger has achieved significant successes, such as stabilizing and gradually increasing the tiger population in India, which is now home to over 70% of the world's wild tigers. The creation of 58 tiger reserves across various states has helped safeguard critical ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, and raise awareness about tiger conservation. The initiative has also contributed to strengthening forest management and wildlife protection laws, making India a global leader in tiger conservation efforts.

Lessons: Project Tiger has provided several valuable lessons in wildlife conservation that extend beyond tiger conservation alone. One key lesson is the importance of a landscape-level approach that focuses not only on the species but on preserving and restoring its entire habitat, ensuring ecological balance. The project has demonstrated that strict legal protection, anti-poaching measures are essential but insufficient without active community participation; involving local people through eco-development programs helps reduce human-wildlife conflict and promotes sustainable coexistence. Scientific monitoring and data-driven management have proven critical for adapting conservation strategies over time. Additionally, Project Tiger highlighted the need for adequate funding and trained personnel to maintain long-term conservation efforts. These lessons continue to inform not only tiger conservation but also other wildlife protection initiatives across India and globally.

Project Lion:

As per the 2020 population estimate, the lion population in the Gir landscape had increased to 674, marking a significant recovery from earlier decades. The ongoing 2025 census has incorporated new methodologies, including camera trap grids, AI-based individual identification, and e-surveillance tools, to ensure more precise monitoring of the population. The lion's range has now expanded to cover over 30,000 square kilometers across 11 districts in the Saurashtra region, supported by habitat improvement initiatives, the creation of wildlife corridors, and efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Additionally, over 100 eco-development committees and local communities are actively engaged in lion conservation through eco tourism and engagement in conservation activities.

Lessons: One key takeaway from Project Lion is the critical need for habitat expansion and connectivity to reduce the risks associated with concentrating a vulnerable population in a single area, thereby preventing threats like disease outbreaks or natural disasters. The project highlights the importance of integrating modern technology, such as AI-driven monitoring and e-surveillance, to improve the accuracy and efficiency of wildlife population assessments. Another lesson is the value of community involvement; engaging local people through eco-development initiatives and livelihood opportunities fosters coexistence and reduces human-wildlife conflicts. Project Lion also demonstrates that multi-stakeholder collaboration, involving government agencies, local communities and scientists is essential for comprehensive conservation.

Project Elephant:

By now, 33 Elephants Reserves have been notified in the country for protection and conservation of elephants. The population of the elephants are stable. The management of the species at landscape level is promoted by securing their corridors.

Lesson: The species work as engineers of ecosystem and their conservation at landscape level is key and therefore focus on conserving elephant corridors for movement of elephants from one place to other place is important to avoid negative human elephant interface and to practice coexistence.

GFG targets addressed:

1.2
1.4
2.1
2.5
3.1
4.2
4.3

Weblink:

<https://ntca.gov.in/reports/#reports2> ; <https://wiienvis.nic.in/>; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2102700>; <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1563571> ;
http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/ElephantReserves_8226.aspx

Title:

Plant4Mother – From a National Drive to a Global Movement

Brief description:

The Plant4Mother (Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam) tree plantation campaign, launched under Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), has transformed tree planting into a deeply personal and emotional act of gratitude towards mothers. By inspiring individuals to dedicate a tree to their mother or a maternal figure, the campaign successfully connected environmental stewardship with human values, leading to wide-scale participation across India and beyond.

Main results achieved:

Since its launch in 2024, the campaign has led to the planting of over 1.58 billion trees, with data recorded across all States and Union Territories of India. What makes this campaign unique is its global footprint—plantation uploads have been recorded from over 20 countries, including contributions from Indian missions abroad, diaspora groups, and international climate allies. The Meri LiFE portal facilitated global participation through multilingual access and geotagged uploads.

Lessons Learned:

Emotional connect, when combined with digital transparency, can catalyze community action at an unprecedented scale. The campaign proved that a culturally rooted initiative can transcend national boundaries, attracting global participation and solidarity. It reinforced that collective climate action can be built on individual stories, and that digital platforms like Meri LiFE can anchor scalable, trackable, and inclusive environmental efforts worldwide.

GFG targets addressed:

1.3
1.4
2.1
2.4
3.1
3.2
3.3
4.3

Weblink:

<https://merilife.nic.in/>

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