



**Ministry of Environment and Forests**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

# **INDIA: MAKING RAPID STRIDES ON FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE**

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***MAY 27, 2010***



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# India's Forests

## Some Key Facts

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- 1 India's Area under Forest Cover: ~70 million hectare**  
*– More than twice the entire geographical area of Finland*
- 2 ~3mn hectares of forest cover added over last decade**
- 3 India's forest and tree cover sequester 138 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e every year**
- 4 200 million people dependent on forests for livelihood**



## India's Forestry Sector Initiatives related to UNFCCC

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- **Submission on “REDD, Sustainable Management of Forest (SMF) and Afforestation & Reforestation (A&R)” done in December 2008**
- **Technical Group set up to develop methodologies and procedures to make assessment and monitoring of REDD+ actions**
- **Considering establishment of a National REDD+ Coordinating Agency**



## India's Forests and Biodiversity

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- **A unique heritage**
  - India, with only 2.4% of land area, accounts for 7-8% of recorded species
  - Diversity of ecosystems: Forests (16 major types), grasslands, wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs, cold and hot deserts
- **New Delhi to host COP-11 of Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) in Oct-Nov 2010**
- **Areas of convergence between UNFCCC and CBD being examined**



## **New Initiatives related to Forests and Climate Change**

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- **Impact of climate change on India's forests**
  - Being undertaken by Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA), to be released in Nov 2010
- **National Mission for a Green India**
- **Institutionalization of National Forest Carbon Accounting**

# National Mission for a Green India

## Key Objectives

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- 1. Double the area to be taken up for afforestation /eco-restoration in India in the next 10 years, taking the total area to be afforested or eco-restored to 20 million ha over 10 years**
- 2. Increase the GHG removals by India's forests to 6.35% of India's annual total GHG emissions by the year 2020** leading to additional carbon sequestration of 43 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>-e annually by the year 2020
- 3. Enhance the resilience of forests/ecosystems being treated under the Mission** – enhance infiltration, groundwater recharge, stream and spring flows, biodiversity value, provisioning of services to help local communities adapt to climatic variability

# National Mission for a Green India

## Mission Targets



### Targets in different interventions under the Mission

1. 2.0 m ha of moderately dense forests show increased cover and density
2. 4.0 m ha of degraded forests are regenerated/afforested and sustainably managed
3. 2.0 m ha of degraded scrub/grasslands are restored and put under sustainable multiple uses
4. 0.10 m ha of mangroves restored/established
5. 0.10 m ha of wetlands show enhanced conservation status
6. 0.20 m ha of urban and institutional lands are under tree cover
7. 1.50 m ha of degraded agricultural lands and fallows are brought under agro forestry
8. 0.10 m ha of corridor areas, critical to wildlife migration are secured
9. Improved fuel wood use efficiency devices adopted in about 10 million households
10. Biomass/NTFP based community livelihoods are enhanced reducing vulnerability

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- **Holistic view of “greening”**
  - **Key role for local communities**
  - **Focus on improving “quality” rather than “quantity” of forest cover**



## Conclusions

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- **India believes REDD needs to be seen in the broader context of REDD+, not in isolation**
  - *Reduction of deforestation and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks should be treated at par*
  - *Fairness requires that a unit of carbon saved should be treated the same as unit of carbon added*
- **Oslo Partnership must put REDD and other “Plus” activities on the same footing, as envisaged in Bali Action Plan**