

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



INDIA: TAKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Twenty Recent Initiatives Related to Climate Change

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INDIA TAKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

While India finalizes the details of the Missions under its National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), there are several other initiatives being undertaken and facilitated by the Government of India to address the issue of climate change.

Recognising the role of forests as a carbon sink, India is promoting afforestation on an unprecedented scale. India, which has a fifth of its area under forests, is one of the few developing countries in the world where the forest cover is increasing, by 0.8 million hectares a year, despite the pressures of population growth and rapid economic development. This is neutralizing 11% of India's annual GHG emissions. India has more than doubled its budget for forestry this year to Rs 8,300 crores (USD 1.85 Bn) and this increase is going to be sustained every year. New programmes to increase the capacity of frontline forestry personnel, improve forestry infrastructure and control forest fires are also being implemented.

On energy efficiency, India has been aggressively reducing the energy intensity of its GDP – from 0.30 kgoe per \$ GDP in PPP terms in 1980 to 0.16 kgoe per \$ GDP in PPP terms now. India's energy efficiency today is comparable to Germany and only Japan, UK, Brazil and Denmark have lower energy intensities. The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change has just approved the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency which sets further ambitious goals for the country. It has announced a roadmap for fuel economy norms for all vehicles that will be fully operational within the next two years. India is also in the process of setting up energy efficiency norms for buildings, and implementing a standards and labelling system for all appliances, which is expected to lead to savings of 11,689 million kWh annually in the first 5 years of its operation. India is also an active participant in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol, with the second highest number of projects registered for any country and estimated to offset almost 10% of India's total emissions per year by 2012. India has been assessed as the "Best CDM Country" in a recent independent study. India has also recently approved its National Solar Mission setting ambitious solar energy generation targets for the medium-term.

The Government of India is also supporting and facilitating major research programmes to assess various aspects related to climate change. We have a comprehensive scientific climate change programme in place that involved over 120 research institutions and over 220 of the best scientists in the country. A special focus area is the study of the Himalayan glaciers and their link to climate change. India is also on the path to launching its own satellite to monitor greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which will put it in an exclusive club of three countries. It has also released the results of a range of rigorous studies that estimate the GHG emissions profile of India for the next two decades, which show that India's total and per capita emissions over the next two decades will remain modest. For example, it finds that India's per capita emissions in 2030, will remain below 4 tonnes of CO₂e, well below those of the developed countries, even if they were to take ambitious emission reduction targets (25-40%) as recommended by the IPCC for the mid-term.

India is also taking leadership in facilitating international dialogue and discussion on climate change issues. A key area where India is showing leadership is technology transfer, which will need to be a critical element of any global climate change agreement. India is hosting a high-level global conference on "Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer" on October 22-23, 2009, in collaboration with the United Nations.

A number of other initiatives have also been launched that are detailed on our website (www.envfor.nic.in). The attached table summarises twenty key initiatives related to climate change that are currently being undertaken by India.

TWENTY RECENT INITIATIVES BY INDIA RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Area	Initiative / Event	Contribution
A. Forestry	1. Launch of CAMPA	Rs 11,700 crore (USD 2.5 Bn) Programme for conservation, regeneration and management of existing forests and wildlife habitats
	2. Capacity Building in Forestry Scheme	Rs 369 crore (USD 80 Mn) approved by Cabinet for a comprehensive human resource development programme for forest personnel, with special focus on training frontline staff
	3. Intensification of Forest Management Scheme	Rs 600 crore (USD 125 Mn) approved by Cabinet for a scheme to improve management of forest areas, strengthen infrastructure, control forest fires, etc.
	4. Accelerated Programme for Restoration & Regeneration of Forest Cover	Rs 500 crore (USD 100 Mn) Scheme announced in this year's budget; Guidelines being finalised
	5. Inclusion of Forestry within NREGA	Forestry related activities included as part of India's flagship employment guarantee scheme; Convergence guidelines ready; Pilots being implemented
B. Energy & CDM	6. Energy Efficiency Standards for Appliances	Energy efficiency ratings made mandatory for 4 key appliances – refrigerators, air conditioners, tubelights and transformers from January 7, 2010; more to follow through 2010
	7. Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)	Introduced by Delhi government for all new government buildings; Other States initiating similar measures
	8. Fuel Efficiency Norms	Plan for fuel economy norms for vehicles announced; to be fully operational in two years
	9. CDM Program	India assessed as Best CDM Country by independent study; Second largest number of registrations in the world; equivalent to 10% of India's emissions by 2012
C. Research Agenda	10. Impact Assessment of Climate Change	Scientific study to assess impact of climate change on various sectors of economy
	11. Himalayan Glaciers Monitoring Programme	Comprehensive scientific programme to monitor the trend and causes of the retreat of the Himalayan glaciers – Phase I complete; Phase II launched
	12. Pathways of India's Carbon Emissions	Modelling of India's Carbon Emission Pathways until 2030 under different assumptions; to be released Sep 2, 2009
	13. India's Forest and Tree Cover as a Carbon Sink	Scientific Paper estimating the carbon stored in India's forests and the emissions it neutralises; released on August 10 in Dehradun
	14. Launch of Indian Satellite to Monitor Greenhouse Gases	Specific Proposal ready in collaboration with ISRO and Planning Commission
D. Outreach	15. Public and Media Campaign	Regular Discussion Forum with Editors Guild, CEOs, National and International Media; More interactions with various stakeholders being undertaken through the year
	16. Release of India's Submissions to UNFCCC	Report documenting India's 12 proactive submissions to UNFCCC made public; released and put on website
E. Key Events	17. SAARC CDM Conclave	Sep 1, 2009: Workshop for CDM capacity building of experts from SAARC nations
	18. India Carbon Markets Conclave	Sep 2-3, 2009: Forum for knowledge sharing and emerging scenarios in the global and Indian carbon markets
	19. SAARC Environment Ministers Conference	October 19-20, 2009: Conference to identify areas for mutual cooperation and joint action on environment and climate change
	20. Conference on "Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer"	October 22-23, 2009: Global Conference to define the roadmap for enabling technology development and transfer to developing countries. Key contribution to UNFCCC process