



# **Ministry of Environment and Forests India**

*Combined safeguards and sub-regional capacity building workshop on  
REDD-plus, Singapore*

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Point**

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# India's Forests

- Forest cover in India is 70m hectares, more than twice the area of Finland
- While most developing countries have lost forest cover, India has added around 3m ha of forests and tree cover in the last decade
- Forests neutralise 11% of India's GHG emissions
- 200m people are dependent on forests for livelihood in India
- Forests Rights Act enacted in 2006 vests forest rights and titles on traditional forest dwelling communities
- India has advanced forest mapping programme, Forest Survey of India conducts biennial assessment of forest and tree cover

# India's Forest (Contd)

- Conservation, expansion and improvement in the quality of our forests is a major national priority
- India recognises the enormous domestic and transnational mitigating benefits of forests
- Forests a cost-effective and efficient way to mitigate effects of climate change, improve water security, safeguard biodiversity and provide livelihood security for millions of Indians

# REDD plus and CBD

- CoP-9 (decision IX/16) welcomed consideration of issue of REDD under UNFCCC
- Several paras in CoP-10 decision X/33 relevant to REDD and REDD plus issues (8q, 9g, 9h, 9f)
- CoP-10 has requested Executive Secretary to provide advice for approval of CoP-11, on application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity
- Executive Secretary also requested to identify indicators to assess contribution of REDD plus in developing countries to achieve objectives of CBD

# REDD plus and UNFCCC

- CoP-15 decision 4/CP.15 on REDD plus, interalia recognises importance of promoting SMF and cobenefits including biodiversity
- CoP-16 decision 1/CP.16 encourages developing country Parties to contribute to GHG mitigation actions in forest sector by undertaking REDD-plus activities
- It further affirms that REDD plus should include promotion of a number of safeguards
- Parties requested to interalia develop a national REDD plus strategy or action plan

# Likely benefits from REDD plus

- REDD plus mechanism opens the possibilities for being compensated/rewarded for providing carbon service to international community
- Incentives thus received from REDD plus would be passed in full to local communities involved in protection and management of forests, thereby ensuring their sustained protection
- It is estimated that REDD plus programme for India can incentivise capture of over 1 billion tons of additional forest carbon over the next three decades and provide more than 3 billion USD as carbon service incentives

# Impact of REDD plus on local communities

- India is committed to ensure that monetary benefit from REDD plus will flow in full to local, forest dependent , forest dwelling and tribal communities
  - REDD plus intended to be an additional co-benefit to the goods and services already accruing to local communities, and is therefore a bonus
  - India's policies to ensure that REDD plus will not adversely impact on traditional and legal rights of local communities over forests
  - All international REDD plus deliberations recognise and respect national legislations relating to safeguarding the rights of local communities, and promoting their participation in implementation and monitoring of REDD plus

# India's position on REDD and REDD plus

- REDD needs to be seen in broader context of REDD plus and not in isolation, since reduction in deforestation, and conservation of forests are two sides of the same coin
- A unit of carbon saved by checking deforestation should be treated the same as a unit of carbon added due to conservation and afforestation measures
- Comprehensive and holistic approach needed to realise full potential of mitigation in forestry sector
- Bali Action Plan incorporates conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forests carbon stocks for reducing the deforestation and forest degradation

# India's REDD plus strategy

- Green India Mission launched under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)
- Technical group set up to develop methodologies and procedures to assess and monitor contribution of REDD plus actions
- National REDD plus Coordinating Agency being established
- National Forest Carbon Accounting Programme being institutionalised
- Hosting CoP-11 to CBD in October 2012
- Study on impact of CC on India's forests assigned to Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) released in November 2010

# Green India Mission

- Green India Mission launched as part of NAPCC with budget of 10 billion USD over 10 year period
- Objectives
  - to increase forest and tree cover in 5 m ha and improve quality of forest cover in another 5 m ha
  - improve ecosystem services, biodiversity, hydrological services and carbon sequestration in 10 m ha
  - increase forest-based livelihood income for 3 m forest dependent house holds
  - enhance annual carbon dioxide sequestration of 50-60 m tones by the year 2020

**THANK YOU**