



International Year of Forests 2011

Very large areas of forest land and secondary forest have been degraded worldwide, and the degradation process continues unabated. Participatory forest management offers a way to sustain forest stocks and foster synergies between adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; it can contribute to mitigation of climate change through carbon capture and avoidance of effects resulting from the loss of forest and burning of forest stocks, and increasing the ability of people to adapt to climate change impacts.

The Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2011 will look at the vital importance of local initiatives in creating a momentum towards building a sustainable future; 2011 is also the International Year of Forests. The special event organised by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India (MoEF, GoI); International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on Sustaining Forests for Mitigation and Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change will look at the role that local initiatives can play in sustaining forest resources, especially in the climate change context. The event aims to provide a platform to share and discuss the key aspects of a sustainable management framework for forest resources through sharing of good practices, innovative collaborative partnerships, and research-based knowledge sharing.

MoEF, GoI; ICIMOD; and TERI Special Event, 4 February 2011

Sustaining Forests for Mitigation and Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change

Venue: Jehangir Hall, Mezzanine Floor, Taj Palace, Sardar Patel Marg, Dhaula Kunwa, New Delhi, India

Time: 18:00 to 20:00

Provisional Agenda

- 18:00 – 18:05 **Welcome:** Dr Leena Srivastava, Executive Director, TERI
- 18:05 – 18:10 **Introduction:** Dr Madhav Karki, DDG, ICIMOD
- 18:10 – 18:25 **Sustainable forest management for combating climate change impacts in the Himalayan countries:** Innovative adaptation and mitigation efforts through value chain development and REDD mechanisms – Dr Giridhar Kinhal, ICIMOD
- 18:25 – 18:45 **TERI experiences on conserving the Himalayan ecosystem** – Dr Yogesh Gokhale, TERI
- 18:45 – 19:00 **Disaster risk reduction to adapt to effects of climate change:** An experience from North East India – Mr Hari Krishna, ICIMOD
- 19:00 – 19:50 **Panel discussion**
Panelists: Mr BMS Rathore, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoI; Deputy Inspector General of Forests, GoI; PCCF Uttarakhand; representative from Aaranyak
Opening remarks, questions and suggestions from the floor, closing remarks by the panelists, and summing up by the moderator
- 19:50 – 20:00 **Next steps:** Mr BMS Rathore, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoI
- Thanks:** TERI

Refreshments will be provided

This flyer serves as an invitation. Please bring it with you (or a printout) to have access to the venue.

Sustaining Forests for Mitigation and Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change

Background

Forest degradation is widespread and continues unabated. Participatory and sustainable forest management offer a way to foster synergies between adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. The approach can contribute to mitigation of climate change by increasing carbon stocks, as well as the avoidance of increasing future impacts resulting from the loss of forest and burning of forest stocks. At the same time, it can help to enhance ecosystem resilience, reduce the social and economic vulnerability of forest dependent people, and increase the ability of people to adapt to climate change impacts. The science of forestry needs to unravel the intrinsic potential of forests for mitigation of climate change and for strengthening the capacities of local communities for adaptation through local collective action. Integrating mitigation and adaptation at the landscape scale would maximise local co-benefits and contribute to increased local capacity to cope with the risks associated with climate change.

In the Himalayan region, the impacts of climate change are clearly evident in the form of reduction in livelihood options and increase in vulnerability to disasters due to floods, soil erosion, landslides, and loss of biodiversity, among others. Forest resources have been looked upon both as important natural repositories for carbon and as local livelihood resources to support adaptation efforts to address the impacts of climate change. This notwithstanding, nearly two-thirds of the forest in the region is prone to degradation and forest fires, threatening the food and water security of millions of people both locally in the upstream areas, and in the river basins downstream.

Communities play an important role in sustaining forest resources. Forest resources can be sustainably managed by capturing short-term values through participatory value chain development mechanisms (for example involving non-timber

forest products and medicinal and aromatic plants), and long-term values (for example through REDD+ programmes). Successful forest-based local initiatives can be assimilated into national and regional programmes to provide ample and feasible opportunities for adaptation interventions, while the managed forests resulting from such initiatives enhance climate change mitigation potential by sinking more carbon. The role of conserved forest ecosystems in reducing risks due to soil erosion, landslides, flash floods and others have been well established.



For further information please contact

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Photos: front - Bishnu Hari Pandit;
back (above) - Karma Tsering, (below) Nakul Chettri

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