Ecosystems and Climate Change

Wednesday, 9 November 2016
India Pavilion, COP22 Blue Zone
12:00–13:30

Organising partners:
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, India
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Funding partners:
Overview

Forests are at the centre stage of the climate change debates due to their role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate change alters existing biome types and can cause forest dieback with a consequent loss of biodiversity. India’s forests serve as a major sink of CO2, offsetting around 12% of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the country while simultaneously offering refuge to threatened species of flora and fauna. In recent years, India has come to be recognised as a leader in forest conservation with several ambitious policies on protecting carbon sinks, including a Bonn Challenge commitment to restore 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands by 2020 and a further 8 million by 2030.

The National Mission for a Green India (also called ‘Green India Mission,’ GIM) acknowledges the influence that the forestry sector has on environmental amelioration through climate mitigation, food security, water security, biodiversity conservation and securing the livelihoods and income of forest-dependent communities. India is also endeavouing to attain its ambitious NDC targets in the forestry sector through various innovative programmes like greening highways, the National Mission for Clean Ganga, etc. The effective implementation of existing, policies/acts/guidelines, expansion of protected areas, provision/protection of natural corridors, afforestation and reforestation, promoting community participation, decreasing pressure on natural forests and forest fire management are different adaptation options being undertaken in the forestry sector.

This event will showcase India’s efforts to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate through forest conservation initiatives and the role played by donor agencies in implementing effective interventions.

Agenda

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| 12:00-12:10 | Opening remarks on India’s forests and climate change                  | Dr. Shashi Kumar  
Director General, ICFRE |
| 12:10-12:20 | Introduction and session overview                                      | Dr. G.S. Goraya – Session chair  
Deputy Director General (Research), ICFRE |
| 12:20-12:35 | Forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation                | Mr. Stewart Maginnis, Global Director, Nature-based Solutions, IUCN |
| 12:35-12:50 | GIZ/BMUB/ICIMOD initiatives on forestry in Indian Sub-continent     | Mr. Kai Windhorst, Chief Technical Advisor, GIZ, ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal |
| 12:50-13:05 | Community-based initiatives for afforestation in Uttarakhand, Himalaya | Dr. Parag M. Dhakate  
Conservator of Forests, Tarai Forest, Haldwani |
| 13:05-13:20 | Climatic influence on forest types of India                            | Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist ‘F’, Biodiversity and Climate Change, ICFRE & Dr. T.P. Singh, Assistant Director-General, Biodiversity and Climate Change, ICFRE |
| 13:20-13:30 | Questions & answers                                                     |                                                                       |

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