ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SCALABLE APPROACHES FOR THE FUTURE OF INDIA’S FORESTS

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The Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-PLUS) is a technical assistance program of USAID/India to improve the management of forested landscapes in India, particularly in ways that can help mitigate climate change. USAID/India and India’s Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) designed Forest-PLUS to combine technical expertise in India and the U.S. to develop and field-test innovative ways to manage Indian forests to yield climate change, biodiversity, environmental services, and livelihood benefits. Building India’s capacity to participate in Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) is an important goal of the Forest-PLUS program.
FOREST-PLUS’S TOOLS AND APPROACHES FOR IMPROVED FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest-PLUS was designed and implemented to develop and field test innovative approaches to management of Indian forests. Over the project life, the program has co-developed with local stakeholders a body of successful tools, techniques and methods which are beneficial and scalable. These products have been field tested in Forest-PLUS’s four landscapes; successes in those geographies are highlighted on the following pages.

These products are freely available on www.forestplus.org or can be provided by request to v paul@usaid.gov.

**STRATEGY**
Forest-PLUS develops design and strategy documents that can structure the approach.

- **Project design documents for climate change mitigation through forests**: the program has co-developed four design documents for projects with a goal of management and finance of forests for climate change mitigation. The documents are intended for different geographic scales (management unit, district, and state) and are useful for practitioners interested in implementing such programs.

- **Policy strategies for sustained yield of multiple ecosystem services**: as forestry transitions to management for multiple uses and services, so too approaches must evolve. The program has developed two strategy documents that can help frame policy with these aims.

**CAPACITY**
Forest-PLUS develops capacity, re-orienting stakeholders to new goals and enabling them to work more efficiently.

- **Technology solutions**: a constellation of integrated tools to support forest management have been developed, including mobile apps for inventory data collection and investment planning, inventory and data management systems for carbon, and a learning management platform for online curriculum delivery.

- **Curriculum and training**: three full sets of high-quality training materials, on climate change awareness, carbon inventory, and an ecosystem approach to forest management, have been developed and used by the program throughout the country.

- **Field-based techniques for sustainable forest management**: a set of field-based techniques for forestry has been developed by Forest-PLUS. These include methods for sustainable harvest and management of non-timber forest products, improved grazing techniques, and fuelwood saving technologies.

**SUPPORT**
Forest-PLUS builds support through communications and partnerships.

- **Information and communication materials**: materials developed by this program have reached audiences across India, and can be used as-is or as models for new communication activities.

- **Action Learning Pilots**: Forest-PLUS is working in partnership with local communities and State Forest Departments at over two dozen field locations to understand and address key institutional and governance challenges for sustainable forest ecosystem management.
Home to Kangchenjunga and the headwaters of the Brahmaputra, Sikkim has built the first state-level approach for climate mitigation through forestry in India.

Buddhist Monks from Rumtek and other monasteries oriented on climate change through "Monks for Climate Change" campaign.

Bio-Briquettes promoted in Sikkim to reduce fuelwood extraction. More than 1,300 persons trained. NABARD support leveraged.

Implementing innovative solutions with local communities and forest officials in two sanctuaries to deal with Human-Wildlife Conflict.

India's first state level REDD+ project prepared using cutting edge technologies and a ground-breaking convergence model bringing together several government agencies.

Cool temperate deciduous forests with forest transitions from Sal to Oak with elevation.

86 persons/km²

$3,860.55 GDP/person
Human management and biotic diversity is the foundation of forest’s ecosystem services; activities in Himachal Pradesh focus on sustaining healthy productive landscapes.
Forest-PLUS Landscape: SHIVAMOGGA

With extraordinary biodiversity and historically high degradation, in Shivamogga a project design document for managing forests to reduce degradation is allowing forests to recover.

- 6 village forest institutions are equipped with technical and institutional capacity for REDD+ readiness.
- Climate change and sustainable forest management messages broadcasted through 16 All India Radio and 13 Community Radio Stations.
- Successful demonstration of sustainable harvesting techniques for Ailanthus, Cinnamon and Sapindus. Work underway on two more NTFPs - Ochlandra and Garcinia.
- Street theatre campaign against forest fire, adopted and replicated by Forest Department.
- 21,453 ha of forests covered under a REDD+ Design Document, a first of its kind effort in the country.

KARNATAKA
- 319 persons/km²
- $1,852.92 GDP/person
- Forests range from wet evergreen to seasonal dry forests, with very high endemism.
In central India’s seasonally dry forests, increasing trees outside of forests to take pressure off remaining natural forests is a success strategy.
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