

# Forest-PLUS

Partnership for Land Use Science

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SCALABLE APPROACHES FOR THE FUTURE OF INDIA'S FORESTS

March 2017



FOREST-PLUS BUILDS INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO MANAGE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS THAT MEET INDIA'S NEEDS TODAY AND TOMORROW



**STRATEGY**

4 Design documents for climate change mitigation covering more than 1 million ha

2 Policy recommendations informing national and subnational policy developed

**CAPACITY**

8000 + persons trained, three major sets of curricula developed

Innovative IT-based systems for forest inventory and online learning created

Support to 51 young researchers in forestry

**SUPPORT**

More than one million persons reached through communication programs

More than 325,000 tree saplings secured through partnerships

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](http://www.forestplus.org) or can be provided by request to [vpaul@usaid.gov](mailto:vpaul@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.



# Forest-PLUS Landscape : SIKKIM

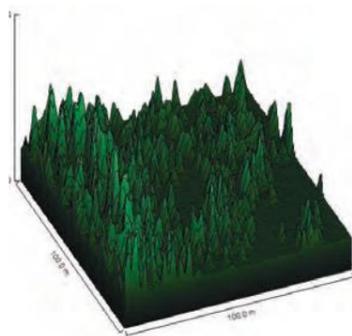
Home to Kangchenjunga and the headwaters of the Brahmaputra, Sikkim has built the first state-level approach for climate mitigation through forestry in India



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



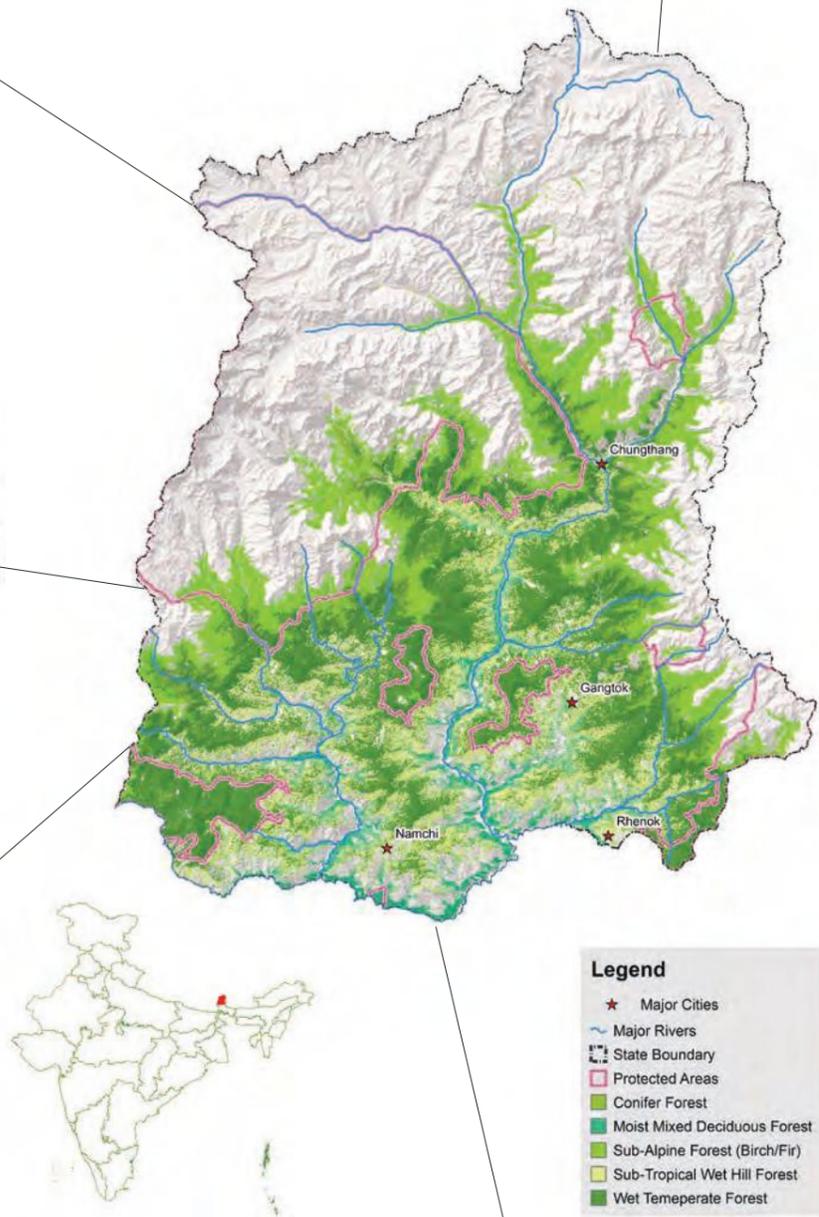
India's first state level REDD+ project prepared using cutting edge technologies and a ground-breaking convergence model bringing together several government agencies.



Forest Data Management System piloted for Working Plan officers.



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



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



# Forest-PLUS Landscape : RAMPUR

Human management and biotic diversity is the foundation of forest's ecosystem services; activities in Himachal Pradesh focus on sustaining healthy productive landscapes.



Successfully piloted alternative livelihood models (mushroom cultivation, vermi-composting etc.) for forest dependent communities.



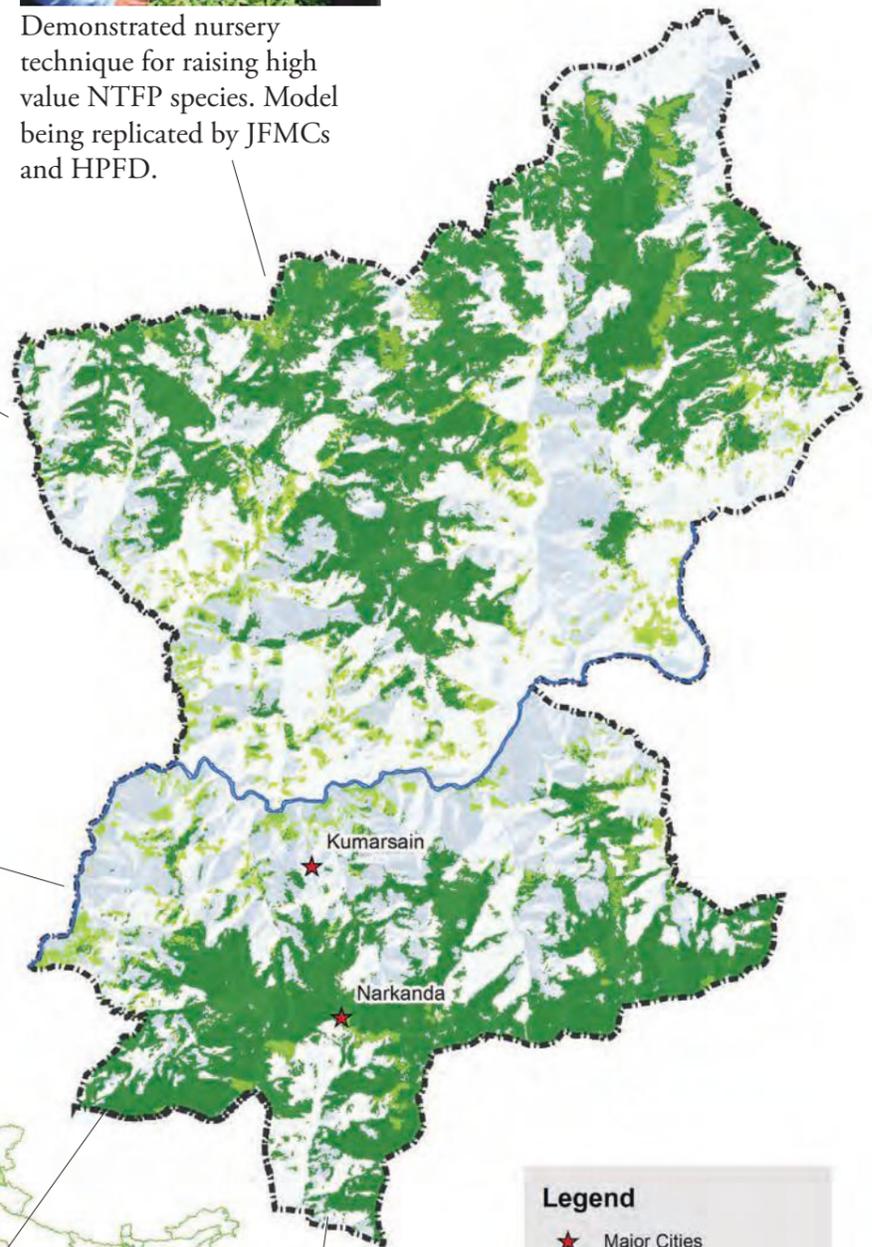
Demonstrated nursery technique for raising high value NTFP species. Model being replicated by JFMCs and HPFD.



Direct sowing of *Oak* and *Bauhinia* seeds demonstrated to HPFD and JFMCs. HPFD initiates replication in other areas.



Introduction of solar heating systems reduce fuelwood usage, biotic interference and women's workload



**Legend**

- ★ Major Cities
- ~ Major River
- ⊘ Circle Boundary
- Dry Deciduous
- Himalayan Moist temperate
- Sub Alpine & Dry Temperate
- Sub Tropical Pine



Silvi-pastoral model trials for improved grazing management indicate that grass production can increase seven times while maintaining tree cover.



# Forest-PLUS Landscape : SHIVAMOGGA

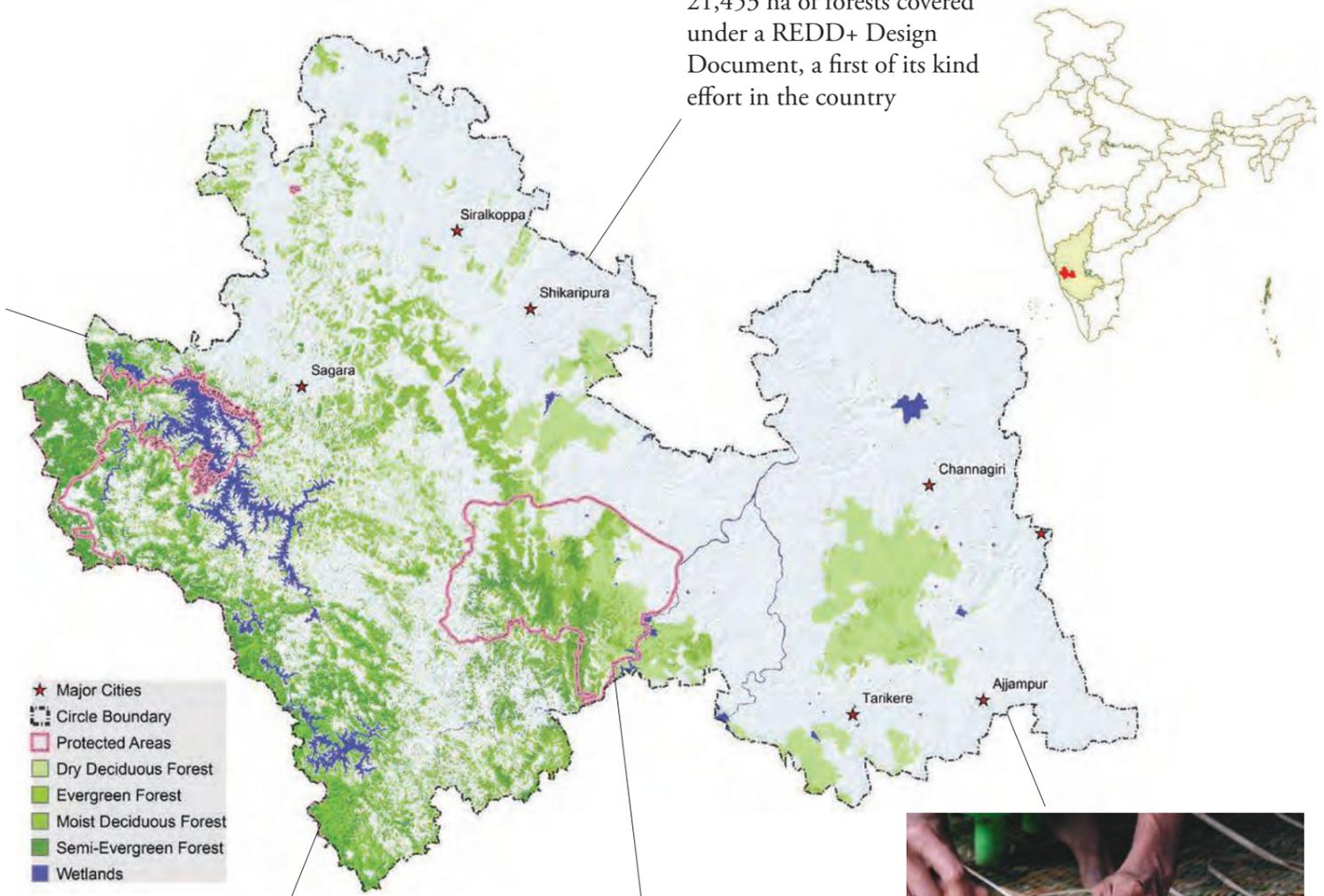
With extraordinary biodiversity and historically high degradation, in Shivamogga a project design document for managing forests to reduce degradation is allowing forests to recover.



6 village forest institutions are equipped with technical and institutional capacity for REDD+ readiness.



21,453 ha of forests covered under a REDD+ Design Document, a first of its kind effort in the country



- ★ Major Cities
- ⬢ Circle Boundary
- ⬢ Protected Areas
- Dry Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Moist Deciduous Forest
- Semi-Evergreen Forest
- Wetlands



Successful demonstration of sustainable harvesting techniques for *Ailanthus*, *Cinnamon* and *Sapindus*. Work underway on two more NTFPs - *Ochlandra* and *Garcinia*.



Climate change and sustainable forest management messages broadcasted through 16 All India Radio and 13 Community Radio Stations.



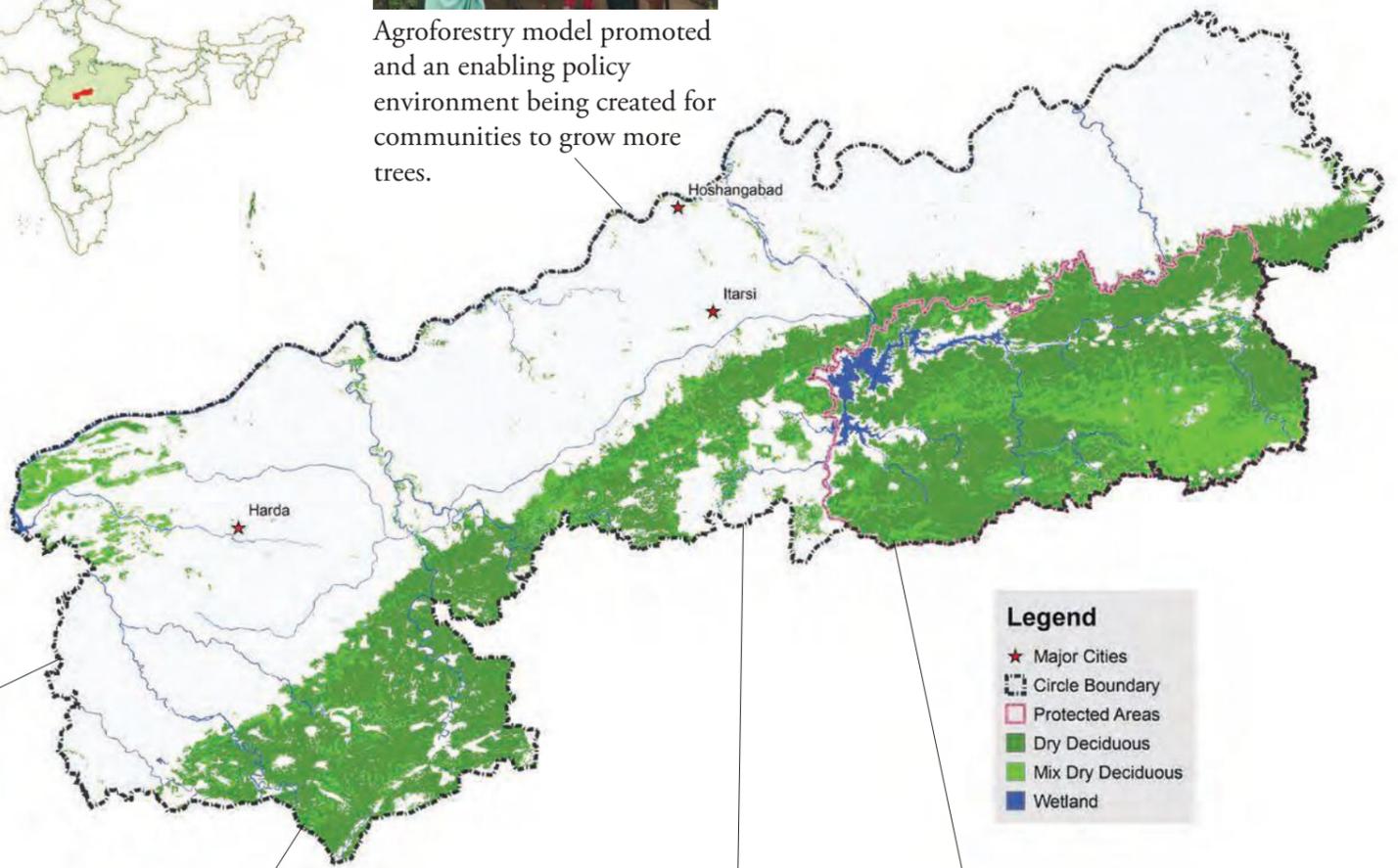
Street theatre campaign against forest fire, adopted and replicated by Forest Department.

# Forest-PLUS Landscape : HOSHANGABAD

In central India's seasonally dry forests, increasing trees outside of forests to take pressure off remaining natural forests is a success strategy.



Agroforestry model promoted and an enabling policy environment being created for communities to grow more trees.



Successfully leveraged resources from corporates for afforestation through plantation of around 350,000 saplings.



Sustainable harvesting techniques and tools developed for key NTFPs. Value addition of *Mahua* to promote non-alcoholic products successfully piloted.



Climate Change curriculum incorporated in the Forest Department's Induction Course for frontline staff.



Human-Wildlife Conflict campaign reaches out to more than 50,000 people in the landscape.

**This publication is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Tetra Tech ARD and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.**

## **Forest-PLUS**

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For further information, contact :

### **Varghese Paul**

Senior Forestry Advisor  
USAID, American Embassy  
Shantipath Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi - 110 021  
Tel: +91-11-2419 8312  
E-mail: [vpaul@usaid.gov](mailto:vpaul@usaid.gov)  
Web: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

### **Rekha Pai**

Inspector General of Forests  
Ministry of Environment, Forest &  
Climate Change  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi - 110 003  
Tel: +91-11-2469 5249  
E-mail: [igf.eap-mef@nic.in](mailto:igf.eap-mef@nic.in)  
Web: [www.moef.nic.in](http://www.moef.nic.in)

### **Ben Caldwell**

Chief of Party  
Forest-PLUS Program  
Tetra Tech ARD, 53 Lodi Estate  
New Delhi - 110 003  
Tel: +91-11-4727 7700  
E-mail: [Ben.Caldwell@tetrattech.com](mailto:Ben.Caldwell@tetrattech.com)  
Web: [www.forestplus.org](http://www.forestplus.org)