

# Partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



## United Nations Development Programme

UNDP partners with governments and people to help build nations and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves overall quality of life. On the ground in more than 170 countries, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight and provides technical assistance, policy advice and development support services using flexible implementation modalities. UNDP has worked in India since 1951 in virtually all areas of human development from democratic governance to poverty eradication to sustainable energy and environmental management. UNDP's programmes are aligned directly with national priorities and are reviewed annually.

### UNDP values its partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Since 1985, UNDP has been supporting the MoEFCC in meeting its national and international environmental priorities and commitments. These include close to 40 projects in the area of climate change, sustainable natural resource management and chemical management. The technical and policy support provided by UNDP focus on institutional strengthening and building capacities to utilize natural resources in a sustainable way, while increasing resilience to climate variability and associated risks and impacts.

UNDP also supports India's engagement with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund and works with six central ministries (Steel, Railways, Urban Development, New and Renewable Energy, Commerce and Power) and 12 state governments to implement GEF funds. UNDP currently supports a cell within the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to support coordination of GEF related activities as well as a Climate Change Cell that coordinates state climate change action plans.

Through this partnership a number of milestones have been achieved. Some of these include:

### **Biodiversity and Natural Resources**

- Ongoing review of the National Forest Policy and the National Wildlife Action Plan;
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and two National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity have been drafted;
- An India Coastal and Marine Programme is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra coasts to mainstream conservation into production sectors;
- Conservation of medicinal plants and protection of traditional knowledge have been promoted in 12 states. Forty four medicinal plants from India have been included in IUCN's Red list of threatened species;
- Strengthening of institutions such as the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees to implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- A global network comprising 122 countries has been established to support the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to accelerate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- Multi-sectoral coordination in conservation and sustainable use of Gulf of Munnar Biosphere Reserve's resources has resulted in the increase of coral cover by seven percent;
- Landscape level planning for conservation and multi-sectoral planning carried out in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh coast;
- Participatory land use planning introduced in Nagaland involving women, a first for the state where women traditionally have no landholding rights;
- More than 12000 hectare of degraded bamboo forests restored through sustainable land management practices in Madhya Pradesh, with livelihood opportunities being provided to local communities;

- Over 3,300 villages and more than two lakh women supported to achieve better access to energy. The programme involves local communities in addressing land degradation, biodiversity conservation and accessing clean and efficient energy.

### **Climate Change**

- Preparation and submission of India's national communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the first bi-annual update report;
- Preparation of State Action Plans on Climate Change across all states under the aegis of MoEFCC, with UNDP directly involved in nine states and accelerating their implementation;
- Specialized training modules have been developed and used to train officials and stakeholders at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, at State Administrative Training Institutes and at some panchayats;
- UNDP works with various line ministries for enhancing energy efficiency in energy intensive sectors and promotion of renewable and clean energy;
- Industrial ratings have been undertaken in six major sectors including iron, steel, cement and thermal power. Environmental Impact Assessments have been reviewed for 48 industrial projects.

### **Montreal Protocol and Chemicals**

- Chlorofluorocarbons have been phased-out, helping India achieve the Montreal Protocol targets in foam, refrigeration, halon, aerosols and metered dose inhalers;
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are being phased out as per accelerated schedule of Montreal Protocol. Appropriate non-ODS technologies are identified in foam manufacturing sector for phasing out HCFCs;
- Initial assessment undertaken to strengthen India's capacity to manage and monitor mercury use throughout the country to enable informed decision-making on ratification of the Minamata Convention.

## Key initiatives planned for 2016

Under its ongoing partnership with MoEFCC, it has been agreed that UNDP will help to:

- **Track** key issues arising under the UNFCCC and CBD;
- **Promote** landscape-based management in East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh and Sindhudurg, Maharashtra;
- **Promote** sustainable land use practices in shifting cultivation areas of Nagaland;
- **Operationalize** implementation of State Action Plan on Climate Change in five states (Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh) in select sectors;
- **Develop** proposals to leverage funds from emerging climate finance mechanisms;
- **Prepare** new initiatives for GEF-6;
- **Develop** sustainable tourism and marine fishery practices in biodiverse-rich areas of Sindhudurg coast in Maharashtra and East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh;
- **Recognize** good practices and experiences in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and governance through the Third India Biodiversity Awards;
- **Develop** a systematic approach to assess gaps and design a resource mobilization strategy to implement the National Biodiversity Action Plan;
- **Develop** plan for phasing out HCFC Stage-II to meet phase-out targets as per accelerated schedule of the Montreal Protocol.

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### Current projects

- Strengthening climate sensitive planning and implementation (2009-2020)
- Mainstreaming coastal and marine biodiversity conservation into production sectors in the East Godavari River estuarine ecosystem, Andhra Pradesh (2011-2017)
- Institutional strengthening project (ISP) (2012-2016)
- Mainstreaming coastal and marine biodiversity into production sectors in Sindhudurg Coast, Maharashtra (2012-2017)
- The Small Grants Programme (2012-2018)
- Strengthening natural resource management (2013-17)
- HCFCs Phase out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage-1 (2013-2017)
- The Third National Communication and Biennial Report to the UNFCCC (2013-2018)
- Developing an effective multiple-use management framework for conserving biodiversity in the mountain landscape of the high ranges, Western *Ghats* (2014-2018)

### Key projects undertaken

- Asia least-cost greenhouse gas abatement strategy project (1992)
  - Selected options for stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions for sustainable development (1993)
  - Strengthening wildlife management and eco-development planning capabilities (1992)
  - Strengthening and developing the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (1992)
  - Formulation of National Forestry Action Programme (1993)
  - National reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1997 and 2006)
  - Non-wood forest products for sustainable forest development, rural income generation and biodiversity conservation (1997)
  - Strengthening capacities for trade and environment policy co-ordination (1997)
  - Clean Development Mechanism and bio-methanation (2002)
  - National programme on promoting conservation of Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge for enhancing health and livelihood security (2006-2012)
  - Conservation and sustainable use of Gulf of Munnar Biosphere Reserve's coastal biodiversity (2002-2012)
  - Capacity development initiative: GEF Cell and SGP India (2007-2012)
  - India's first and second national communication to UNFCCC (2007-2013)
  - Sustainable industrialization (2007-2013)
  - Biodiversity conservation through Community-Based Natural Resource Management (2008-2012)
  - Strengthening institutional structures to implement the Biological Diversity Act 2002 (2009-2012)
  - Natural resources conservation outside protected areas (2009-2012)
  - Demonstrating and promoting best techniques and practices for reducing healthcare waste to avoid environmental releases of dioxins and mercury (2009-2013)
  - Low carbon campaign for XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi, India (2010-2011)
  - Capacity building for addressing climate change (2010-2012)
  - Phase out of carbon-tetrachloride in small and medium size enterprises in the metal cleaning sub-sector (2004-2014)
  - National strategy for transition to non-CFC Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs) and plan for phase-out of chlorofluorocarbons in manufacturing of pharmaceutical MDIs (2009-2014)
  - Mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants diversity (2008-2015)
  - Two projects (in Nagaland and Madhya Pradesh) on land degradation under Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management - country partnership programme
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