INDIA @ COP22

India's Readiness for REDD+

Dr. T.P. Singh
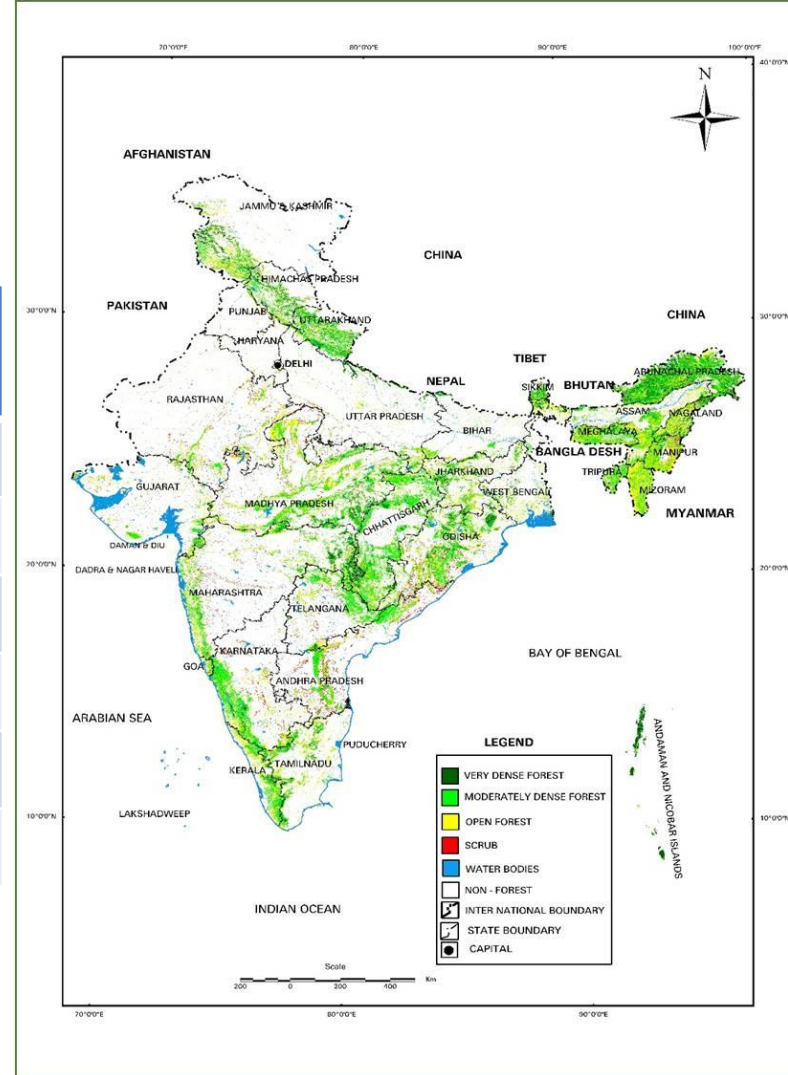
Sustainable Lifestyle = Positive Climate Action

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Forests Cover in India

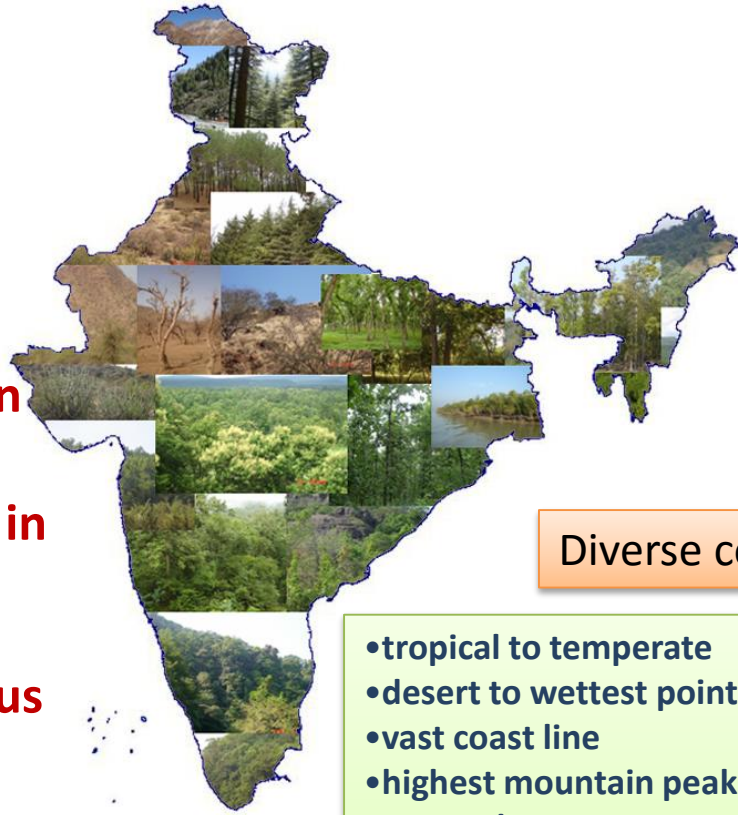| Class	Area (sq km)	% of geo area
Very Dense Forest	85,904	2.61
Moderately Dense	315,374	9.59
Open Forest	300,395	9.14
Total Forest cover	701,673	21.34
Tree Cover	92,572	2.82
Forest and tree cover	794,245	24.16

Source: FSI 2015

The panorama of Indian forests ranges from:

- **Evergreen tropical rain forests in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Western Ghats, and the north-eastern states, to alpine scrub high in the Himalaya to the north and arid scrub in the western deserts**

- **Semi-evergreen rain forests, deciduous monsoon forests, thorn forests, subtropical pine forests in the lower montane zone and temperate montane forests**

Diverse conditions

- tropical to temperate
- desert to wettest point on the earth
- vast coast line
- highest mountain peaks
- among largest extent of mangrove forests
- vast alluvial plains
- diverse island ecosystems and marine life

National GHG inventory in Gigagram (Gg) of anthropogenic emission by sources and removal by sinks for the year 2000 (SNC or NATCOM 2)

S l	Activity	CO_2 (e)	CO_2 (r)	CH_4 (e)	N_2O (e)	Others HFC, CF. HF etc	CO_2 eq emission
1	All Energy	95,2212		2991	39		1,027,015.5
2	Industrial Process	72,561		5	13	1.5	
3	Agriculture			14088	193		
4	LULUCF		236,257	552	7		(222,567)
5	Other sources			2307	13		52552
	5a Waste						
	5b Bunker fuel	3467		0.05	0.1		
	5c Biomass burning	376005					
Total From All sectors		1,024,773	236,257	19,944	264	1.5	1,301,209
LULUCF Contribution as sink (%)							-17.10%

Great Potential for REDD+

Decision 1/CP.16 (2009) Scope of REDD+ :

(a) Reducing emissions from deforestation

(b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation

(c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks

(d) Sustainable management of forest

(e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

Safeguards: Environmental and Social

India's Potential for REDD-plus

- **Well established system National Forest Monitoring**

- **Integration of Remote Sensing Satellite Imagery for forest assessment.**

- **Forest Conservation oriented policies and afforestation programmes in India**

- **Involvement of local communities for forest management through Joint Forest Management and Village Community Forest (*Van Panchayats in UK*)**

- **Well established forest governance and rights of local communities**
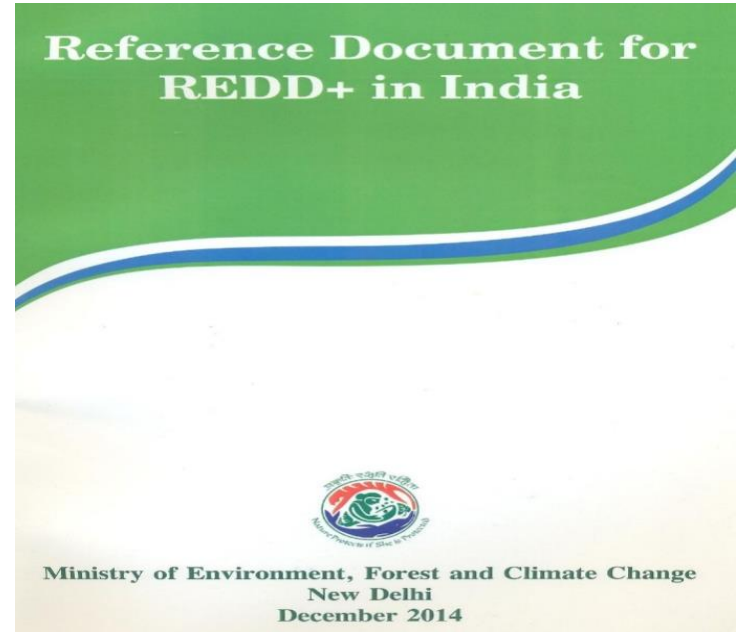
Roadmap for REDD+ in India

- Phase 1 – National Strategy and Action Plan Development (MoEF&CC)

- Phase 2 – Readiness and Initial Action

- Phase 3 – Countrywide Implementation

Overlapping

Reference document for REDD+ in India:

The document based on the existing knowledge available on the subject and roles and responsibilities of different departments, institutions, civil society and local communities

Necessary guidance and framework
for REDD+ implementation, covering:
- National forest reference level,
- Safeguards,
- MRV mechanism,
- capacity building, and
- identification of research gaps

Reference Document for
REDD+ in India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
New Delhi
December 2014
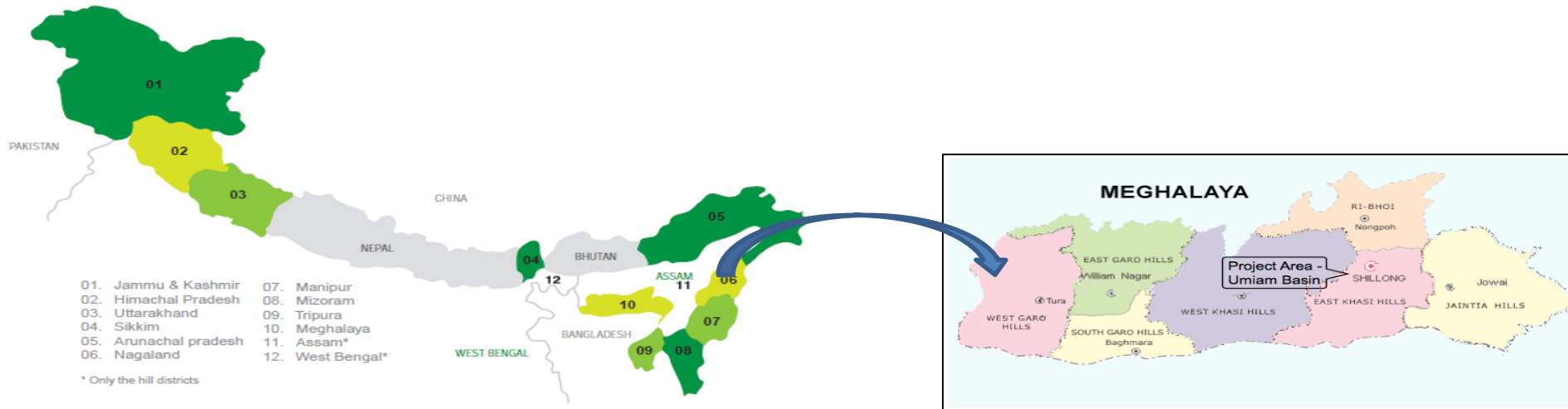
India's draft national REDD+ policy and Strategy: (2014)

1. Overall objective and intent
2. Implementation principles
3. Compatibility with UNFCCC decisions
4. National Laws
5. Coverage
6. Benefits of REDD+ implementation

Meghalaya Project (1ˢᵗ REDD+ in India)

A REDD+ pilot project in the East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya

Community Forestry International (CFI) and the Mawphlang community working together since 2005 to preserve a 17000 Hectare area in the Umiam basin watershed region

Other Projects under implementation

- Uttarakhand REDD+
  - ICFRE and Uttarakhand Forest Department
- FOREST PLUS of USAID
  - MoEF, ICFRE Institutes and FSI
  - 4 Landscapes (in HP, MP, Sikkim and Karnataka)
- Collaborative Pilot between ICFRE and ICIMOD
  - Eastern Himalayas
  - In India, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar
- World Bank-GEF Project
  - ESIP
  - To start this year

Activities in Pilot REDD+ Projects

- Identifying drivers of deforestation and degradation and ways to address them

- Establishment of Reference Levels at small scale

- Socio-economic analysis
  – Strong focus on safeguards

- Capacity Building of FDs and local communities
  – Mechanism
  – MRV
  – SIS
  – Market mechanisms and Finance

Safeguards: Strong policy framework for conservation of natural forest

THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 1988 envisages conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests

- **Provisions for maintenance, conservation and enhancement of bio-diversity of forest ecosystems**

- **Maintenance and enhancement of forest resource productivity**

- **Increase in the extent of forest and tree cover**

A few important acts, instruments and rules governing the protection and conservation of forests

1. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, amended 1988
2. The National Forest Policy, 1988
3. The Indian Forest Act, 1927
4. Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003
5. Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981, amended 1992
6. Biological Diversity Act, 2002
7. Biological Diversity Rules, 2004
8. The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, amended 1993
9. The Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 1995
10. National Environment Policy, 2006

Social safeguards: Joint Forest management:

1,12,816 JFM committees have been formed covering about 25 million ha of forest area.

JFM has enabled protection and regeneration of existing forests, and raising of forest plantations, which is contributing in conservation of existing

The concept of JFM in India is a step towards the conversion of low-productivity forests to productive forests. Currently, JFM covers approximately 29.8% of the total forest area of the country (ICFRE 2011).

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) ACT, 2006

The Act enjoins upon the local communities, to recognize their role in forest and biodiversity protection through sustainable management practices

Provides scope and historic opportunity of integrating conservation and livelihood rights of the people.

Encourage transition from regulatory mode of forest governance to decentralized forest governance in India.

To sum up

- India made a significant contribution in negotiating process for REDD+

- Country has big strengths for MRV and Safeguards

- Strong institutional mechanisms

- Pilot Projects initiated in India are providing good learning platform for this mechanism

- Readiness phase is almost complete

Way forward

- **Finalising the REDD strategy or action plan for REDD+**
- **Capacity building of stakeholders**
- **Developing safeguards Information system**
- **Developing Reference Emission Levels/Reference Level for REDD plus**
- **Developing a transparent national system of MRV**
- **Quantification of REDD plus benefit and sharing mechanism with REDD+ Communities**
- **Finance for REDD Plus actions**
- **Performance based payments for emission reduction**