



REDD-PLUS

Opportunities for India

COMPONENTS

- **Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)** is a mechanism that has been under negotiation by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 2005, with the objective of:
 - mitigating climate change through reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases through enhanced forest management in developing countries.
 - Adaptation to climate change by extending forest cover to sequester already existing atmospheric CO₂ excess



FINANCIAL MODEL

- As a mechanism under the multi-lateral climate change agreement, REDD+ is essentially a vehicle to financially reward developing countries for their verified efforts to reduce emissions and enhance removals of greenhouse gases through a variety of forest management options
 - Special context of Developing Countries that are:
 - Mitigating CC by conserving, protecting and promoting natural forest cover
 - Adapting to CC by undertaking plantation activities in non forest areas



FINANCIAL REWARD PARAMETERS

- The decisions on REDD+ enumerate five "eligible activities" that developing countries may implement to reduce emissions and enhance removals of greenhouse gases:
 - (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation.
 - (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation.
 - (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks.
 - (d) Sustainable management of forests.
 - (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Construction of National Forest Reference level
- Measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of carbon emissions from forest activities
- Capacity building of stakeholders in REDD-plus implementation
- REDD-plus financing
 - JFM Conservation Projects
 - Plantations



OPPORTUNITIES

- Mechanism for fund flow to forest communities
- Protection of rights and livelihoods of communities
- Capacity building for stakeholders
- Knowledge transfer from UN-REDD programme
- Pilot projects
- Mitigation of forest fires, overgrazing and fuelwood



READINESS

- Because of its long standing commitment towards conservation and sustainable management of its forest resources, India is favourably placed to gain access to both financial and technical resources available under the provisions of UNFCCC
- India already has in place laws and policies compliant with provisions of UNFCCC
- India has been regularly conducting forest assessment on biennial basis




OPPORTUNITIES - PRESENT

- The Green India Mission objective:
 - to increase forest cover by over five million ha
 - improve the quality of forests over another five million ha during the next ten years;
 - enhance annual CO₂ sequestration by 50 to 60 million tonnes by the year 2020;
 - increase forest based livelihood income of about three million households living in and around the forest.



INDIGENOUS FOREST CONSERVATION IN MAWPHLANG (MEGHALAYA)- CASE STUDY

- Country's first REDD pilot project
 - High rate of deforestation in the past.
 - Owned and administered by local community
 - Indigenous community institutions like the Mawphlang Lyngdoh-ship (or village government council) introduced measures such as
 - ✓ social fencing,
 - ✓ regulating fuelwood harvesting and grazing,
 - ✓ using smoke-less chullahs or stoves,
 - ✓ switching to higher value stall-fed livestock,
 - ✓ controlling forest fires by laying down fire lines in ten meter patches outside the forests and
 - ✓ banning mining at nearby quarries.
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MAWPHLANG – FINANCE

- As a result, aided by US-based non-profit environmental organization, Community Forestry International, the Mawphlang community has regenerated their forests
- Requests from neighboring indigenous governments (hima) to extend the project to their areas and set up a federation of Himas.
- This allows them to earn income from carbon credits.
- This forest landscape restoration project includes the Mawphlang Sacred Grove and covers 62 villages.



MAWPHLANG – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Innovative strategies such as a wildlife corridor, eco-trails and awareness campaigns with schools and colleges are being used to strengthen the intrinsic bond that Khasi people has with the forest.
- Organizing hamlet discussions, passing on oral traditions of forest conservation to the younger generation, the future custodians of these resources- are ways of keeping the past glory alive that serve present needs.



THANK YOU

