



STATEMENT BY MS. RANJANA GUPTA, MEMBER OF INDIAN DELEGATION,  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6 "MEANS  
OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT" AT THE  
EIGHTH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS ON APRIL 20,  
2009

Mr. Chairman,

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is a broader term used to refer to a management paradigm which focuses on ecological, sociological and economic principles in tandem. The National Forest Policy, 1988 and the forestry management practices in India are based on the principles of Sustainable Forest Management. The progress made by the country towards achieving the four Global Objectives on Forests and the implementation of the NLBI has already been elaborated. However, in the context of climate change and REDD India has been in favour of an umbrella approach comprising different policy options, approaches and activities including conservation, sustainable management of forests (SMF), and increase in forest cover. India favours a comprehensive REDD mechanism, and seeks financial incentives of compensation for enhancement of carbon stock as a consequence of following the policy options of conservation and sustainable management of forests (SMF). In COP 13, India used the term Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) and the term got incorporated in the Bali Action Plan and COP decision on REDD (decision 2.CP/13). For the purpose of REDD, SMF can be understood as improvement in existing cover and increase in forest / tree cover (FTC), i.e.,  $(\text{harvest} < \text{increment}) = \text{net addition}$ . SMF includes maintenance as well as increment of forest carbon stocks by means of improvement in the quality of existing stocks and expansion in forest area with activities like afforestation and reforestation (AR).

Government of India is promoting Afforestation & Reforestation (A&R) projects under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol. Upto February, 2009 the National CDM Authority has accorded Host Country Approval to 9 eligible projects under CDM A&R. It is understood that these projects are under validation and are likely to apply for registration with CDM Executive Board in due course, and thereby generate Carbon Credits. Climate Change Division of Ministry of Environment & Forests is presently also involved in Capacity building of CDM A&R in three States namely Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand in collaboration with GTZ. It is proposed to add 5-6 more States shortly under this programme for which GTZ has agreed in principle.

Regarding reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests, combating desertification, Forests and biodiversity conservation including protected areas; adequate policy and legal provisions exist. Indian Forest Act, Forest Conservation Act, Wildlife (Protection) Act are for the effective conservation of Forests & wildlife resources in the country. India has a National Forestry Action Plan & National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-16), which gives policy direction for the management of the Forestry & wildlife sector. As stipulated in the legislation and Action Plans, establishment of Reserved Forests & Protected Areas (PAs) form the core of India's conservation strategy. India has national Schemes and Programmes for strengthening the effective management of Forests & wildlife resources. India's national Protected Area covers around 4.8 % of country's geographical area. India currently has 99 National Parks, 515 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 43 Conservation Reserves and 4 Community Reserves. Besides there are 37 Tiger Reserves and 26 Elephant Reserves. India has established a National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in 2007 to combat illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan has been prepared within the broad framework of National Environment Policy & National Forest Policy. In pursuance to the CBD, India had enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 following a widespread consultative process. The Act gives effect to the provisions of the CBD. It also addresses access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use to the country and its people, thereby contributing to achieving the third objective of the CBD.

The UNFF can play a key role in creating complementarities among the forest-related conventions and relevant forest organizations, bodies and processes for the better use of resources, expertise, less likelihood of overlaps of duplication of efforts, better communication and dissemination of information.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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