

BACKGROUND NOTE

The Context

Indian forests inhabit diverse ecosystems and habitats that provide numerous ecosystem services. More than 300 million forest-dependent population is primarily deriving their livelihood from the forests. This dependence, coupled with a lack of sufficient infrastructure and financial support, results in increased anthropogenic pressure on forests, resulting in degradation and human-animal conflicts. REDD+ mechanism can play a pivotal role in fostering the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems and securing the rights and livelihoods of local communities. It can also help to generate an added revenue stream and allow for the effective transfer of technologies, knowledge, and expertise while simultaneously reducing and/or removing GHG emissions globally.

UNFCCC REDD+ Framework and Indian Scenario

Forest in India is a concurrent subject where policy and planning are governed by the Government of India and the implementation is done by State Governments at the sub-national level. The Government of India (GOI) has presently agreed for REDD+ at the national level and has also submitted the National Forest Reference Level (NFRL).

TERI is committed to implementing the UNFCCC REDD+ at National and Sub-national Levels and all its REDD initiatives follow the UNFCCC methodology and review process. With consent from the GOI, TERI is implementing multiple REDD initiatives in India with the State Governments at the sub-national level. These projects, involving the role of local communities and the respective Forest Departments, are centred around forest conservation by addressing the drivers of forest degradation. The funds generated are channelled back to foster protection and restoration of natural ecosystems and secure the rights and livelihoods of local communities.

To implement the Sub-national Level Approach, TERI is willing to work with the GoI to seek the consent of the UNFCCC for implementing the Sub-national Level Approach in the interim.

Key Focus Areas

- ✓ The implementation of sub-national REDD+ will serve as a platform to facilitate international partnerships to scale up carbon finance, advocate for policy enhancement, and encourage international cooperation to mainstream carbon finance as a vital tool for climate resilience and sustainability. The GOI is to be informed to take up the Sub-national REDD+ Approach in the interim with the consent of UNFCCC.
- ✓ Understanding the scenario of India and other developing countries and the challenges faced by them in the implementation of the existing REDD+ framework.

- ✓ This event will help to draw global attention and investment towards India's effort to mainstream financing tools such as carbon finance mobilized through Sub-National REDD+ implementation for further boosting the forest and biodiversity conservation efforts and improving the lives and livelihood of Forest Dependent Communities (FDCs).
- ✓ Role of Governments in emerging and developing economies for enabling a conducive environment for private investment and strengthening the institutions for sub-national REDD+ implementation.

The benefits of the Sub-national REDD+ implementation in enhancing the Environmental, Economic, and social well-being of FDCs. It can also help generate an added revenue stream and allow for the effective transfer of technologies, knowledge, and expertise while simultaneously reducing and/or removing GHG emissions globally.