

Dialogues on Environmental Governance in the Context of Sustainable Development: The case of plateaus and hills

Executive summary

The fourth Dialogue on Environmental Governance in the context of Sustainable Development was organized from October 6th to 8th, 2013, at Bangalore and was focused on the case of the Plateaus and Hilly Regions of India. The purpose of these dialogues is to utilize an ecosystem approach to capture the diversity of stakeholder opinions and increase participation of major groups in governance mechanisms for sustainable development. Particularly, these stakeholder dialogues have a role to play in:

- Identifying and engaging with multiple viewpoints and outcomes;
- Formulating and observing norms/rules for sustainability; and
- Embracing the concept of 'knowledge' as an enabling factor for 'science' in environmental policy-making and regimes.

The discussions on the first day of the dialogue spanned across the various stakeholders, their interests and environmental changes in the region; the prevalent science and politics around environmental governance in the plateaus and hills; and the emerging institutional and policy innovations for strengthening environmental governance. After these discussions, several overarching issues were identified and delved into further.

These issues were:

- Ecosystem concepts and their role in policy-making;
- Development and land use policies;
- Science and communication for environmental governance;
- Role of judiciary in environmental governance; and
- Theoretical and pragmatic considerations for environmental governance.