

GIM Advisory 2.1

Operations to be undertaken after short-listing landscapes/ sub-units

1. The Context.

- 1.1. The Green India Mission (GIM) has been conceived as a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and multi-departmental mission for the "greening" of India in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation, meant to enhance ecosystem services, NTFPs, livelihood of local communities, conservation and restoration of biodiversity etc. The Mission document states that operational guidelines and an implementation manual will be issued by the MoEF addressing key themes and interventions to facilitate the implementation of the Mission. The development of these guidelines is a phase-wise task and built over time, through advisories on various issues by involving various stakeholders. Further refinement of these guidelines will be made through experience in the preparatory phase, and will be reflected in the final operational guidelines/manual for the GIM.
- 1.2. In the direction of developing guidelines, a brainstorming session on sensitising State Forest Departments/ other Stake-holders on 26th March, 2011 at New Delhi was the first step. Thereafter, a workshop on the criteria for identification of the landscapes under GIM and prioritizing them for implementation was organized on 28th and 29th of April, 2011 at New Delhi and two groups were constituted for formulating criteria for landscape identification and for developing operational guidelines. A gmail address dgfgimanua1@gmail.com has been made for exchanging messages with the working groups.
- 1.3. Four regional workshops on Operational Guidelines for implementation of GIM were conducted at Jabalpur (7th October 2011), Jaipur (11th Oct. 2011), Agartala (15th Oct. 2011) and Bangalore (20th Oct. 2011) and a demonstration workshop for nodal officers/ representatives from the states for identification of landscapes was organized at Dehradun on 4th Nov. 2011 by Forest Survey of India (FSI). FSI has also agreed to assist and co-ordinate for the supply of the digital Forest Vulnerability map and Wasteland map on behalf of the states, besides supply of Forest Cover map and Forest Types map.
- 1.4. First Advisory 1.1 on method of selection of landscapes/ operational units was evolved after wide consultations, and has been circulated to the states on 21st November 2011. It was stated therein that subsequent advisories will provides inputs on other key components/ themes including: preparatory activities under sub-missions and cross-cutting interventions; planning at the level of local bodies,

cluster and sub-landscape level for selected areas; initiating action for institutional strengthening and reforms, review and improvement of the regulatory systems to enhance ecosystem services from non-forest and forest areas; developing baselines, protocols for data management and monitoring of the GIM interventions; charting out the capacity building plan for different actors and levels etc. Advisory 2.0 (draft) was circulated to the states for suggestions and accordingly Advisory 2.1 has been developed for circulation.

- 1.5. This Advisory 2.1 focuses on operations to be undertaken after selection of landscapes/ working units and the states need to put in place the bridge plan and the strategic plan as per the revised schedule shown in the end. There would be opportunity for the states to also take up some pilot implementation including capacity building, base line studies and entry point activities and institutional revamping/ strengthening etc. Linkage with the State action plan on climate change also needs to be ensured by the respective states. The current year activities may also include soil and water conservation measures and other such components which will not create any major financial commitment for the subsequent years.

2. Situation/Problem Analysis and baseline.

- 2.1 After the characterization of Landscapes and the operational unit, a situation / problem analysis should be undertaken in a participatory manner with the communities, Forests and other sectoral departments, NGO's academic institutes and other major actors.
- 2.2 The basic approach would be to identify drivers of degradation, which are resulting the vicious cycles of environmental deterioration, stagnation in agricultural livelihood, increase in poverty and outmigration, and to transform it into a virtuous cycle leading to water & soil improvement , improved biomass availability, better agricultural / rural employment, development of alternative livelihoods, institutional strengthening and overall development of the area.
- 2.3 The problem analysis would focus on levels of dependence on forests and CPR's, basic bio-physical measurement of ecosystem services flows, distribution of forest cover, zonings, rights and privileges, resource availabilities, market linkages, local groups (JFM/CFM/CFR groups, youth clubs, mahila dal, farmer groups, SHGs, residents' welfare societies). The Situation /problem analysis and baseline will provide a comprehensive starting view, and help identify priorities, opportunities and risks / uncertainties.

- 2.4 A number of tools have been developed in recent decades for this type of participatory planning and problem analysis. Whereas previous approaches were top down, based on technology developed in academic / scientific institutions, the current approach is to consult people including disenfranchised sections of society like women, poor and scheduled caste / tribe, who are often main victims as well as the key to the solution based on their traditional knowledge and in-built resilience.
- 2.5 One of the techniques developed is Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), which aims to incorporate the knowledge and opinions of rural people in the planning and management of development projects and programmes. The point in the PRA approach is that solutions and ideas are not to be imported from outside, but developed by interaction among actual stakeholders. This would need time to establish understanding with the community, for which help of social workers / NGOs may be taken.
- 2.6 Other problem analysis techniques like problem tree analysis, SWOT analysis, brainstorming techniques etc. could also be used by involving various stakeholders including other departments. All problems may be taken as opportunities in this analysis.

3. GIM interventions.

- 3.1. After the selection of landscape and problem analysis, various components of GIM relevant for the site will be applicable. The GIM includes (a) 5 sub-missions with sub-categories and (b) five cross-cutting interventions which need to be kept in mind while formulating programmes after selecting the landscapes and operational units for implementation. Operational units chosen are likely to cover multiple sub-missions with their sub-categories, and cross-cutting interventions.
- 3.2. The Mission aims at increasing of forest & tree cover on 5 million hectares, and improvement of quality of forest cover on another 5 million hectares area. The Mission also targets improvement of forest-based livelihoods for about three million households living in and around forests, besides improved ecosystem services including carbon sequestration. The following five Sub Missions, integrating adaptation/mitigation measures and corresponding to the Mission targets, are given below:
- 3.2.1. Sub Mission 1: Enhancing quality of forest cover and improving ecosystem services (4.9 m ha)
- a) *Moderately dense forest cover, but showing degradation: 1.5 m ha*
 - b) *Eco-restoration of degraded open forests: 3 m ha*

c) Restoration of Grasslands: 0.4 m ha

3.2.2. Sub Mission 2: Ecosystem restoration and increase in forest cover (1.8 m ha)

a) Rehabilitation of Shifting Cultivation areas: 0.6 m ha

b) Restoring Scrublands: 0.8 m ha

c) Restoring/Planting Seabuckthorn: 0.1 m ha

d) Restoration of Mangroves: 0.10 m ha

e) Ravine Reclamation: 0.10 m ha

f) Restoration of abandoned mining areas: 0.1 m ha

3.2.3. Sub Mission 3: Enhancing tree cover in Urban and Peri-Urban areas (including institutional lands): 0.20m ha

3.2.4. Sub Mission 4: Agro-Forestry and Social Forestry (increasing biomass and creating carbon sink): 3 m ha

3.2.5. Sub Mission 5: Restoration of Wetlands: 0.10m ha

3.3. The five cross-cutting interventions of the Mission are-

3.3.1. Improving fuel-use efficiency and promoting alternative energy sources

3.3.2. Community Livelihood Enhancement

3.3.3. Corridors for connectivity

3.3.4. Community conserved areas and sacred groves

3.3.5. Understanding, identifying and protecting areas/ catchments of hydrological importance

An important point to be kept in focus in restoration of ecosystems is to work with the ecological limitations and characteristics, rather than to replace them with alien ecosystems. This is especially important in the case of specialized ecosystems like grasslands, wetlands, shorelines and ecosystems etc. which have specialized requirements, capacities, species composition etc.

4. Drawing Detailed Action Plans (Bridge Plan and Perspective Plan):

4.1 The states need to put in place the one year bridge plan and the five / ten years perspective plan in consultation with stakeholders as per the revised schedule in the preparatory year 2011-12. The plan will be built on the characteristics and priorities identified in the Situational / Problem analysis and Baseline. The implementation plan will be local in nature, follow principles of decentralized planning, address inter-sectoral felt needs and promote convergence among sectors. The plan would also look at regulatory, institutional and market capacities and constraints in the area and include the local markets, even if they are not physically in the GIM site.

4.2 Entry Point Activities (EPA) should be taken up for confidence building at the community level to establish the credibility of Mission. For example a village school may not have drinking water facility / roof or a small bridge might have broken down disconnecting the village. Making these facilities available will make the children to come to school or connect the village with nearby town / city. An immediate action on these aspects will energize the community for involvement in the Mission.

4.3 As already stated in Advisory 1.1, during the current year 2011-12, a bridge plan will be implemented which will also include detailed budget, institutional strengthening / revamping, capacity building of government officials, communities, NGO's etc., making available alternative sources of energy, micro-plan preparation, value addition including grading packaging and storage facility, Soil & Moisture Conservation (which do not create financial commitment for subsequent years) and building monitoring and evaluation framework through a wide consultative process with stakeholders in the state beside setting up of GIM Secretariat / GIM Cell in States, identification of landscapes, preparation of one year bridging plan and 5/10 years perspective plans, nursery planning, entry point / livelihood activities, awareness program.

5. Means of verification of Outputs and Outcomes:

5.1. The ideal situation would be to write a plan with log-frame summary which will break down to specific tasks and actions, starting from (1) Overall goal or long-term objectives (2) purpose or short term objectives, (specific targets of the Mission), (3) Activities to be taken up (4) Task / sub-tasks. Project Management software or an approved manual can be utilized for planning, scheduling and monitoring the achievement of objectives through verifiable indicators as suggested in the following summary table-

Sl. No.	Objectives	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Mean of verification (MoV)	Assumptions /Risks
A.	Long-Term (Overall Goal)			
B.	Purpose (Mission Objectives)			
C.	Activities			
D.	Tasks /Suit-Tasks etc.			

5.2 Monitoring under the mission will help in timely information for planning and feedback to multiple agencies / stakeholders. In addition to on-ground monitoring by line departments and communities, application of modern technology like Remote Sensing and GIS will be taken up. Physical as well as financial evaluation including social audit by Gram Sabha and financial audit by Auditor General and Comptroller & Auditor General will be undertaken.

5.3 Sites with exiting reports of bio-physical or socio-economic or institutional monitoring could provide baselines and help in impact assessment – e.g. spring and stream flow, ecological studies – biodiversity, biomass including fuel wood, fodder, NTFP removal studies. They would provide a baseline for valuation etc. and could be the learning sites.

6. Institutional Strengthening / Reforms:

6.1. The Mission document emphasizes institutional strengthening / reform at State Forest Development Agency (SFDA), Forest Development Agency (FDA) and centrality of Gram Sabha for moving further towards democratic decentralization, community participation and empowerment and strengthening of forestry sector.

6.2. To fulfill the reform agenda, the states should take action to give legal status to the JFM Committees as committees of Gram Sabha in Panchayat Raj Act and to revamp SFDA / FDA by having Chief Minister/ Forest Minister and Zilla Parishad Chairman as chairman of SFDA and FDA respectively. For details, the GIM document could be referred.

7. Time line and Milestones.

7.1 It is expected that a State GIM Secretariat / State GIM Cell will be created on top priority to assist the process with technical inputs. The identification of operational unit should be immediately followed up by bottom-up preparation of work plan for 2011-12 which will include such components as will lay the basis for future operations but without creating any long term financial commitment until the contours of long-term financial support are finalized by Govt. of India.

7.2 A timeframe against each activity with identifiable milestone and resources required will be maintained. As already stated, following time frame is indicated for bridge plan and perspective plan.

7.2.1 Bridging Plan: 31st December 2011

7.2.2 Five / Ten Year Perspective Plan:

For discussion-28th February 2012,

Final – 31st March 2012.

8. This is a document under formulation and suggestions are welcome.