

India Celebrates...

International Year of Forests 2011

Calendar of Events



जहाँ है हरियाली ।
वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥

Ministry of Environment and Forests
National Afforestation & Eco-development Board

Calendars organize time for us in terms of days, dates, weeks and months. This Calendar is about forests and wildlife conservation for garnering support and understanding, and to inform about what events have been planned during International Year of Forests, 2011.

Forests 2011

United Nations has declared year 2011 as International year of Forests (Forests 2011). The logo of Forests 2011 conveys the theme of "Forests for People" celebrating the central role of people in sustainable management, conservation, and development of our world's forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360 degree perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate & environment.



Significance of Forests

Contribution of forests to the economy is traditionally recognized through products of economic value like timber as well as a range of non-priced products such as fuel wood, fodder and a range of Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) including medicinal plants that are exchanged in an informal manner. The limited market exchange results in gross undervaluation of forests, which leads to inadequate allocation of funds to the forestry sector. Acceptance of ecological services of forests like hydrological benefits, soil conservation, flood control, carbon sequestration, fresh air generation, climate stabilization, bio-diversity conservation and amelioration of overall environment, eco-tourism etc. is recent outcome of the sustained awareness & mass communication efforts of the past few decades. Forests also play a very important role in rural and tribal economy as many of the NTFPs provide sustenance to a few hundred million poor people.

India's Forests

India, with a wide range of climate, geography & culture, is unique among biodiversity-rich nations. The panorama of Indian Forests ranges from evergreen tropical rain forests in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Western Ghats and north-eastern states to dry alpine areas in Himalayas in the north and between these two extremes, the country has semi-evergreen, deciduous, subtropical and thorn forests.



GREEN FACTS OF THE COUNTRY

India - A Mega Diverse Country

- India accounts for 7-8% of recorded plant & animal species of the world.
- India has four global biodiversity hotspots - Eastern Himalayas, North East, Sunderbans and Western Ghats.
- Total Forest and Tree cover of the country is estimated as 23.84 percent of geographical area.
- Total numbers of Protected Areas (PAs) in India is 661 consisting of 100 National Parks, 514 Conservation Reserve, 4 Community Reserves, encompassing 4.8% of the total geographical area.
- 15 biodiversity rich areas of the country covering an area of approximately 74000 sq kms have been recognized as Bio-sphere reserve and four Biosphere reserve viz Nilgiri, Nandadevi, Sundarbans & Gulf of Mannar.
- Presently 25 Indian Wetlands have been designated as Ramsar sites in the country and six more are under consideration.
- Carbon stocks in our forests stood at 6662 m MT in the year 2005.
- Nearly 27% of the total population of the country, comprising 275 million rural people, depend on forests for their livelihood.





Key Challenges to the Forestry Sector in India

With 17% of world's population, and 18% livestock population over 2.4% of world's total geographical area, India's forests are facing severe biotic pressures as nearly 40% of domestic fuel wood needs of the people and 30% of fodder needs of the cattle population in the country are met from forests. The demand and the supply gap of timber, fuel wood and fodder is widening. Shifting cultivation (slash & burn cultivation) practiced over about 1.2 m ha, though associated with socio-cultural, legal and bio-physical characteristics, is also cause of degradation of forests predominately in eastern & north-eastern India. To deal with the stupendous task to overcome the problems forests are facing, National Forest Commission has recommended allocation of minimum 2.5% of national budget to the forestry sector.

Concern over inadequate role of elected Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) vis-a-vis Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in forest management, limited involvement of non-profit making voluntary sector, control over Minor Forest Products, implementation of Forest Rights Act and PESA are some of the issues frequently voiced with little recognition for the tremendous efforts made to maintain forest cover in the present conflicting scenario. Some of these issues are expected to be addressed once the JFMCs are recognized as part of Gram Sabha and legal back up is provided to them.

A Multi-sectoral and Multi-stakeholder Approach to the Forest Management

The Forestry sector recognizes its increasing role to provide sustained benefits to the people and strives to attain it by integrating new frontiers of knowledge & science in planning, management, research & capacity building with forest management. Besides programmes of State Forest Departments for the regeneration of forests & wildlife conservation and afforestation programmes of other ministries of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has launched many initiatives for restoration of degraded forests and management of wildlife by taking multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach. JFM approach of "Care & Share" draws its strength from National Forest Policy 1988 and subsequent guidelines of MoEF in 1990, 2000 and 2002, which lay emphasis on the involvement of local communities in protection, afforestation and sharing of benefits with the communities.

National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is a flagship afforestation programme of National Afforestation & Eco-development Board (NAEB) in the ministry, which is being implemented through Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMCs) under the umbrella of Forest Development Agency (FDAs) in each forest division and State Forest Development Agency (SFDAs) in the State. National Mission for a Green India also proposes increased forest and tree cover on five million hectares of degraded lands and improved quality of forest cover over another five million hectares besides increasing forest based livelihood, enhanced Carbon sequestration and benefits from ecosystem services. The involvement of non-profit making voluntary sector in Greening India, eco-development forces constituted from among retired defence personnel for afforestation of sensitive areas, integrated habitat development of wildlife areas and Integrated Forest Management scheme to improve the infrastructure of forest departments are some of the continuing efforts in this direction.

The professionals, who manage the forest resources, are being regularly provided with the cutting edge knowledge, technology and skills to deal with new challenges. Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) Dehradun, FRI Deemed University, Dehradun, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) Bhopal, Indian Council & Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), State Forest Training School and state forest institutions are making extensive efforts to fulfill the knowledge gap. Forest Conservation Policies and constitution of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and National Tiger Conservation Authority are some of the efforts in the direction of forest and wildlife conservation.

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Calendar of Events for International Year of Forests 2011

S No.	Events	Period/ Date	Venue
1.	Workshop on enhancing Forest Productivity through tissue culture	28th January	TFRI, Jabalpur
2.	Seminar on Non Timber Forest Products Marketing: Issues and Strategies	19th February	TFRI, Jabalpur
3.	Tree Growers' Mela	24th–25th February	IFGTB, Coimbatore
4.	Seminar on "Recent Advances in Propagation, Management and Utilization of Bamboo"	17th–18th February	IWST Bangalore
5.	Interactive meet with wood industries and Exhibition	23rd–24th March	IWST Bangalore
6.	Seminar on Western Himalayan Watersheds: Concerns, Challenges and Strategies towards Management of Forest Eco-system	23rd–24th March	HFRI, Shimla
7.	2nd National Seminar on Casuarinas	3rd–4th March	IFGTB, Coimbatore
8.	Consultative Workshop on Strategies for Formulation of Forest Genetic Resources Management Network (FGRMN)	9th–10th March	IFGTB, Coimbatore
9.	World Forestry Day Celebrations	21st March	New Delhi
10.	Launch Ceremony of Green India Mission	26th March	New Delhi
11.	National Seminar on Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act 2006: Implementation, Livelihood and Forest Conservation	29th March	New Delhi
12.	Creating awareness through print media on contribution of Forests to Society		
	12.1 Foresters, who laid their life for protecting forests	March	
	12.2 Wildlife	April	
	12.3 Livelihood	April	
	12.4 Urban Forestry	May	
	12.5 Non Timber Forest Products	May	
	12.6 Joint Forest Management	June	
	12.7 Forest Conservation	June	
13.	Seminar on Insect-Pests and Diseases: Their incidences and Management in Forest Eco-system	25th–26th May	HFRI, Shimla
14.	Seminar on Issues and Concerns in Forestry : Awareness amongst School Children	5th June	HFRI, Shimla



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15.	Workshop on Modern Trends in Production of Quality Planting Stock	23rd & 24th June	HFRI, Shimla
16.	Workshop on Clonal Propagation of Tree species as Sources of NWFPs. Clonal propagation/ Vegetative Propagation	June/ September (two days)	IFP, Ranchi
17.	Brain storming workshop for formulation of coordinated program on forestry for socio economic up-liftment in arid and semi- arid regions.	23rd–24th June	AFRI, Jodhpur
18.	Workshop on Sustainable utilization, conservation and cultivation of important medicinal plants.	26th–27th July	HFRI, Shimla
19.	Workshop on Forests and Livelihood (Case studies / Films)	July 4th Week	IIFM, Bhopal
20.	Pre-Indian Forest Congress Workshops		
	20.1 Forests in Society	5th July	TFRI, Jabalpur
	20.2 Forests in an Expanding Economy	19th July	AFRI, Jodhpur
	20.3 Expanding Frontiers of Forestry Science	11th May	IWST Bangalore
	20.4 Forest Bio-diversity & Landscapes	28th Sept	RFRI, Jorhat
	20.5 Forests & Climate Change	17th August	HFRI, Shimla
21.	Consultative workshop on Forestry: An option for socio-economic and ecological sustenance in the Cold-Deserts of Himalayas.	18th–19th August	HFRI, Shimla
22.	Training Workshop on Cultivation of Bamboo for Edible Shoot Production, quality assessment and processing of shoots.	August (two days)	IFP, Ranchi
23.	Conclave of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs)	1st week September	New Delhi
24.	Seminar on Non Timber Forest Products Marketing Issues	September	TFRI, Jabalpur
25.	Consultative workshop on Promising Agro-forestry System	September	TFRI, Jabalpur
26.	Seminar on Recent Advances in Fungal Biotechnology	22nd–23rd September	FRI, Dehradun
27.	Workshop on Improvement of Tree Borne Oil Seeds. Tree Borne Oil Seeds	October	IFP, Ranchi
28.	Training Workshop on Quality Planting Stock Production	October	TFRI, Jabalpur
29.	Voices from the Field Publication	October, 1st week	To be Released in November 2011
30.	Forestry Sector Report	October, 1st week	To be Released in November 2011
31.	First National Parks Congress	2nd–3rd October	New Delhi
32.	Indian Forest Congress - Main Theme- Forests in a Changing World	22nd–25th November	New Delhi
33.	Kisan Sammelan	November	TFRI, Jabalpur
34.	National Symposium on Assessment & Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources through Biotechnological Interventions.	November	IFP, Ranchi
35.	Seminar on Eco-friendly Methods for Forest Protection	December	TFRI, Jabalpur

Some Important Dates

WORLD WETLANDS DAY ON 2ND FEBRUARY

The day marks the Convention on Wetlands adopted on the 2nd February 1971, in the Iranian City of Ramsar. The Ramsar convention defines wetlands as, "areas of marsh, fern, peat-land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters"

WORLD FORESTRY DAY ON 21ST MARCH

It Commemorates the contribution and value of forests and forestry to the community. The concept of World Forestry Day originated at the 23rd General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture in 1971. Celebrations are held to inform on key facets of forestry like protection, production and recreation.

WORLD EARTH DAY ON 22ND APRIL

The theme of the day is brought out by "Earth Pledge" taken on the occasion that reads as "Recognizing that people's action towards nature and each other are the source of growing damage to the environment and resources needed to meet human needs and to ensure survival and development. I Pledge to act to the best of my ability to help make the Earth a secure and hospitable home for present and future generation." The day is celebrated as an international event indicating that all major environmental threats are global in scope.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON 22ND MAY

On this day, the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted. Biodiversity refers to the total variety of life on earth and include micro organisms, plants and animals. India is a rich country in terms of biodiversity. In the last few decades, however, India has been facing a serious problem of loss of biodiversity. Population growth, poverty and intensive exploitation of our natural resource base have all contributed to the loss of biological diversity.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ON 5TH JUNE

This day marks the beginning of the historic United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972. United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) started as a result of this Conference. India also participated in the Conference and we committed to lend political support for the policies and measures on environmental protection. Subsequently, the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution of India incorporated the Article 51A that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve natural environment and Article 48A that it shall be the duty of the state to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife.

VAN MAHOTSAVA IN JULY

It has been celebrated ever since in India in the month of July when the earth is moist with rains. Behind the idea of this festival lies the imperative of involving as many people as possible in covering the land with forests so that our soil and water are conserved, our birds and other life forms are sustained and our environment is kept healthy.

WORLD POPULATION DAY ON 11TH JULY

This day was adopted by the Governing council of the United National Development Programme in 1989. The action was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on July 11, 1987, approximately the date on which the world's population reached five billion people. Population control measures and wiser and restrictive use of natural resources are therefore key areas of focus if we want our children to have a better future.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PRESERVATION OF OZONE LAYER ON 16TH SEPTEMBER

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16th September the International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal protocol on substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed.

WILDLIFE WEEK FROM 2ND TO 8TH OCTOBER

The eastern Himalayas and the Western Ghats is one of the 12 mega-diversity areas. With only 2.4 percent of the global land area, our country possesses more than 45,000 plant species representing about 11 percent of the world's biota. The flowering plants comprise about 17500 species that represent more than 6 percent of world's known flowering plants. India's immense faunal diversity that is estimated to be over 81,000 represents about 6.5 percent of world's fauna. As many as 29 endangered species like slow loris, brown bear, Himalayan lynx, clouded leopard, musk deer, and ibex are found in India.

NATIONAL POLLUTION PREVENTION DAY ON 2ND DECEMBER

To pay tribute to the memory of thousands of persons who have lost their lives in the Bhopal gas disaster

NATIONAL CONSERVATION DAY ON 3RD DECEMBER

To publicize the concept of sustainable development among all concerned. The idea originated in 1992 when the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India came out with a National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development Work.



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