



## Executive Summary

Forestry Statistics India, a compendium of the official statistics of the forestry sector of India, has been continuously published by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education since 1994. The present issue is a change over from the previous ones and has tried to address the forest statistics as a whole in a new light. The format of the present issue is an outcome of detailed discussions held with the state forest departments and other stakeholders. An attempt has been made to address new issues and also to flag them for future data collection cycles, if not now.

The Forest Resource, as ever, is under pressure from various quarters. The encroachments on forest land, unrecorded removal of timber, fuel wood and non-timber forest products and eco-tourism bring forests under the danger of degradation and destruction. India has a forest cover of 21.02 per cent as assessed in the State of Forest Report 2009 of Forest Survey of India

Geographic Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Actual forest cover (km <sup>2</sup> )	Recorded Forest Cover (km <sup>2</sup> )	Actual Forest Cover as Percentage of Geographical area
3287263	690909	6951	21.02

The area by ownership of the land under the state forest departments falls into three broad categories, Reserved, Protected and Unclassed. The total area classified as reserved is around 413232 square kilometers, that classified as protected is around 223671 square kilometers and unclassified area is 6737 square kilometers.

The forest departments are engaged in raising plantations of various forest tree species. The estimates of tree plantations raised from 2006-07 to 2009-10 (in ha) are as under:

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
567513	642511	1318874	761696

On an average more than 82000 ha of plantations have been raised per annum in the last four years.

Forest fires are a hazard to the forest protection. They result in losses to flora as well as fauna. A lot of biodiversity is affected by forest fires annually. In the period 2002-08, around 16400 square kilometers of forests were affected by heavy and moderate fires while around 29500 square kilometers of forests were affected by heavy, moderate and mild forest fires.

According to the Wasteland Atlas of India, wastelands consist of a total of 47.22 million ha in 23 categories. The total area under wastelands was 472261.94 sq. km. in 2005-06 which has reduced to



467021.16 sq. km. in 2008-09 registering a decrease of 5240.78 sq. km. In terms of percentage of total geographic area of India, the reduction of wastelands was from 14.91 per cent in 2005-06 assessment to 14.75 in 2008-09 assessment. The state forest departments are organized into circles, each circle into divisions, each division into ranges and ranges into blocks and beats, though blocks are not necessarily present in each state. Circle, division or range may be territorial or functional depending upon the function of each. Each circle is headed by a Conservator of Forests, a division by a Deputy Conservator of Forests and range by a Range Forest Officer. There are a total of 197 territorial circles, 788 territorial divisions and 4706 territorial ranges in the country. At lower levels, there exist 11685 blocks and 43,884 beats. The total field staff (from Forest Guard to Rangers) in the country is around 1,10,000.

Outturn of forest produce mainly consists of two broad categories, namely, timber and non-timber forest products. The forests of the country produce more than two million cubic metres of timber annually. This does not include the timber from areas outside forests. It has been estimated by Forest Survey of India in its India State of Forest report that the areas outside forests contribute almost 43 million cubic meters of timber. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are the states that produce a higher than average timber each year.

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are collected by the state-owned agencies (including forest departments) and also by the tribal / dwellers of forest villages. NTFPs are important in sustaining rural economies. There are two broad categories of NTFPs, viz., nationalized and non-nationalized. Data on Nationalized NTFPs (like tendu leave, gums, resins) are available with the forest departments, while collection of non-nationalized NTFPs largely goes unrecorded. Resin worth over ₹ 100 crore is produced each year by the four leading states Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand. The average annual value of Tendu leaves collected by the states is slightly more than ₹ 1000 crore.

The forest departments also supply Bamboo on NISTAR / royalty free basis to the dependent people. The leading states providing such bamboo for use to societies and other dependents are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. More than eight lakh metric tonnes of bamboo is produced annually in India whose market value is more than ₹ 400 crore. This is apart from that extracted from private farmlands and plantations.

There are 668 Protected Areas (PA) in the country spanning more than 160000 square kilometers of area. These comprise 102 National Parks, 515 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 47 Conservation Reserves and 4 community reserves.

The total plan expenditure in the first four years of the 11th plan on Forests and Wildlife up to 2010-11 is



₹ 3700.42 crore. This is more than the 9th (₹ 1440.82 crore) or the 10th Plan (₹ 2803.50 crore). Similarly, the amount released in the first four years of the 11th Plan under Wildlife schemes is ₹ 291.43 crore, more than that released in 9th plan (₹ 82.80 crore) and 10th Plan (₹ 336.85 crore).

Project Tiger, one of the flagship projects of Wildlife Protection, was provided with an amount of ₹ 597.67 crore in the first four years of the 11th plan against ₹ 150.00 crore in the 10th Plan. The total population of tigers estimated in 2010 is 1706.

The management of forests through active participation of communities has gained considerable ground in the past few years. As on March 2010, there are a total of 1,12,816 No. Joint Forest Management Committees (JFM) with a total area of 2,46,47,231 Ha under the JFM scheme. Plantation activities is also undertaken under the twenty-point programme. The total plantations raised under the programme in the reporting period, in thousand hectares, are as under:

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1655.61	1542.68	1675.70	1547.13

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India provides funds to the states under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP). The total funds provided in the entire reporting period amount to ₹ 1349.47 crore with the following annual break-up (in crore rupees)

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
292.75	392.93	345.62	318.17

Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been created and People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) are being maintained for protection and conservation of biodiversity. A total of 31542 BMCs have been created and 370 PBRs are being maintained in 15 states. The lead in BMCs is taken by Madhya Pradesh which has 27712 BMCs and in PBRs by Uttarakhand with 139 PBRs.

International trade in forest products has increased steadily in the last decade. The total volume of imports of Wood in logs, Sawn wood, Plywood and Veneer Sheets in 2009-10 was 5909360 cubic meters. The figures, in thousand cubic meters, for the reporting period are as under:

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
3607.76	4153.62	4155.77	5909.36



Establishment of Clonal Seed Orchards, Seedling Seed Orchards, Vegetative Multiplication Gardens and Nurseries is an important step towards providing quality planting stock for the various afforestation programmes being run in the country. Established with scientific input by ICFRE and its institutes and now handed over to the state forest departments, Seed Production Areas have been raised for important species like Teak, Emblica, Neem, Chirpine, Deodar, Kail, Fir, Bamboo, Acacias, Tun, Simarouba, Shisham, Eucalyptus, etc. Similarly VMGs and Seed Orchards have also been raised for the important timber species and also of those tree species which provide seeds and other non-timber forest products.