

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Role, Functions and Mandate

The Ministry of Environment & Forests is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government, for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of environmental and forestry programmes and policies

The Ministry's main activities include conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife, prevention and control of pollution, afforestation and re-generation of degraded areas, protection of the environment, ensuring welfare of animals and research related to these topics.

The main tools utilized to attain these goals and objectives, *inter alia*, include surveys, impact assessment, control of pollution, regeneration programmes, support to organizations, research to solve problems relating to environment and provide training to augment the requisite manpower, collection and dissemination of environmental information and creation of environmental awareness among all sectors of society in the country.

Performance Review 2007-08 and 2008-09

Actual plan expenditure of the Ministry amounted to Rs 1349.73 crores in 2007-08 and Rs. 1490.39 crores in 2008-09 against approved outlays of Rs 1351.00 crores and Rs 1500.00 crores respectively. An outlay of Rs 1880.00 crores has been approved for the Ministry for 2009-10.

The regional offices during 2007-08 monitored 499 projects approved under FCA 1980 for compliance of stipulated conditions and 1262 projects under EPA 1986 for compliance of stipulated conditions. Similarly, during 2008-09, a total of 602 and 1428 projects were monitored under the FCA 1980 and EPA 1986 respectively for compliance of stipulated conditions.

A proposal for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Funds have been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore and Dudhwa Tiger Reserves for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10.

The Central Zoo Authority supported 25 zoos and the maintenance of 7 Rescue Centres during 2008-09. Under National Afforestation Programme, 443 FDA projects were supported, area of 1.7 lakh hectare was approved for regeneration and 6536 JFMCs were operationalised.

During the year 2008-09, the ENVIS network was classified in five thematic and three regional groups. For monitoring and evaluating, seminars were held in four thematic/regional groups through workshops.

During 2008-09, 41 new projects were supported under the identified thrust areas, 98 ongoing projects were monitored and Final Technical Reports of 59 completed projects were accepted.

During 2008-09, a total of 1612 projects were granted environmental clearance.

Meetings of National CDM Authority were held regularly to consider the CDM Projects for grant of Host Country approval. As on 31 March 2009 the National CDM Authority has accorded Host country approval to 1230 projects.

During 2008-09, a total of 376.76 mld of sewage treatment capacity was commissioned under the National River Conservation Programme. A national workshop on state of Environment Reporting was organized.

Outcome Budget 2009-10

Education and training in forestry aims at development of necessary forest management skills, capacity building and skill up-gradation. Towards this various institutions like ICFRE, IIFM, IGNFA, State Forest Rangers colleges impart short and medium term training courses/workshops/seminars etc, preparatory as well as in- service, to meet such requirements of Government sector, private sector and other organizations.

Institutions like ICFRE and IPIRTI promote research in forestry sector towards technological innovations and extension methods. While ICFRE is likely to support 255 ongoing projects and initiate 81 new projects, IPIRTI will support 22 research projects and 13 short term training courses in 2009-10.

The Intensification of Forest Protection Scheme with an outlay of Rs 76.00 crores in 2009-10 aims at strengthening of forest infrastructure with increased effectiveness in control of forest fires, illicit felling, encroachments, scientific management of forests and involvement of local communities in protection of forests.

Project Tiger scheme aims at protection, conservation and development of Tiger reserves. Financial support is also provided for relocation and rehabilitation of families from Tiger Reserves. In 2009-10, funding support will be provided to 37 Tiger reserves, relocation and rehabilitation of at least 2600 families from Tiger reserves including payment of compensation extinguishing their rights on forest land.

To assist states having free ranging populations of wild elephants and to maintain the viable elephant population, an outlay of Rs 21.50 crores has been provided to assist 14 states for 26 Elephant Reserves under the Project Elephant scheme.

A flagship scheme of the Ministry in wildlife sector, the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, aims at assisting the states/UTs in development of national parks & sanctuaries, to encourage expansion of such protected areas, to create infrastructural protection and management of these PAs and for relocation of villages falling within the protected areas. Financial and technical assistance will be provided to 360 PAs in states/UTs, 5 recovery programmes for critically endangered species and 20 High Value Biodiversity formations in 2009-10.

To promote better and improved animal life, the scheme of Animal Welfare attempts to promote welfare of animals by providing shelter houses, ambulances and animal birth control facilities. The Central Zoo Authority, in 2009-10, will provide funds to improve the quality of life and improve facilities in 30 zoos, maintenance of 7 Rescue centres and 21 research projects .

The National Afforestation Programme Scheme, supports expansion of forest and tree cover. Support is also provided under Greening India scheme for setting up quality planting material nurseries, extension, training, concurrent evaluation of FDA projects and intensive media campaign for increase in forest and tree cover. In 2009-10, the scheme would continue support to 800 FDA, operationalize 1000 new JFMCs and target new area to be planted at one lakh hectare. To increase forest tree cover in inaccessible areas, like desert, terrains, mountain slopes through regular /retired TA personnel, the 6 battalions of ETF would be continued 2009-10.

The conservation programmes includes Biosphere Reserves for intensive in-situ conservation of entire eco-system to reduce biotic pressures, mangroves & wetlands programme to check further deterioration of mangroves and wetlands through various conservation activities. Assistance is also provided to regional botanical gardens for ex-situ conservation of rare and endangered plants. In 2009-10, 15 Biosphere reserves will receive enhanced protection and conservation, 40 M.A.Ps for identifies wetlands and facilities would be provided in about 15 botanical gardens to conserve at least 150 rare plant species. Integrated action oriented research and demonstration activities in the Himalayan region and strengthening outreach is being carried out by the G.B Pant Himalayan Institute of Environment and Development The biodiversity conservation scheme provides support to institutions, including National Biodiversity Authority, for the conservation of biodiversity.

The scheme of environmental education, training and awareness attempts to enhance understanding of people at all levels about relationship between human beings and the environment and to develop

capabilities/skills to improve and protect the environment. In 2009-10, the scheme will support 1,00,000 eco-clubs, participation of 10,000 organizations in NEAC, support 70 seminar/symposia/workshop, organize teaching programmes for training to 100 new teachers in GLOBE protocol and conduct refresher courses for 200 teachers trained in GLOBE protocol. The National Museum of Natural History would continue to promote non formal environmental education.

The ENVIS system provides information on environment and related areas to various stakeholders and public at large through a decentralized network of ENVIS Centres on diverse subject areas. In 2009-10, support will be provided to ongoing 76 ENVIS centres and 4 new Centres are likely to be set up.

Research and Development activities will be undertaken to develop strategies, technologies and methodologies for better environment management through support to R&D projects. In 2009-10, 50 new projects in multi disciplinary aspects of environment protection, conservation and management in identified thrust areas will be initiated and 150 ongoing projects will be reviewed.

For prevention of pollution of national rivers and lakes, the Ministry is implementing the schemes of National River Conservation Plan and National Lakes Conservation Plan. While under NRCP a total of 385.82 mld of sewage treatment capacity is likely to be created through commissioning of 18 STPs in 2009-10, under NLCP Servicing of 42 ongoing projects in 13 States and initiation of 2 new projects in the state of Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh is proposed.

The major activity under prevention of air and water pollution relates to grants to CPCB for fulfilling its objectives under Water Act, Air Act, and EP Act for strengthening air and water quality monitoring system. In 2009-10, a total grant of Rs 34.50 crores will be provided for addition of water quality monitoring at 75 locations, ambient air quality monitoring at 50 stations, and automatic air quality monitoring at 11 stations in 4 cities. Financial assistance will be provided to 15 SPCB/UTPCCs for strengthening laboratory/other technical infrastructure under the scheme of abatement of pollution. To check environmental loss due to effluent discharge, financial assistance will be provided to 4 CETP to treat effluent emanating from the clusters of compatible small scale industries.

The hazardous Substances management scheme supports development of infrastructure for disposal of hazardous wastes and municipal wastes. In 2009-10, 4 TSDFs , 8 new CBMWTFs for bio-medical wastes will be funded and 2 Emergency Responses Centre to be set up and 1 new municipal solid waste treatment plants will be set up.

An important initiative includes development and promotion of Clean technologies. In 2009-10 funding support to creation of data base for clean technologies available in India and broad and 5-6 projects relating to pollution control, conservation of energy, conservation of water and innovative technology for conservation of environment are likely to be completed.

To protect India's interest in climate change issues in various international fora, the adaptation and capacity building project on climate change undertakes capacity building activities in the country to enable the stakeholders to mainstream climate change concerns. It also enables according host country approvals to CDM projects and facilitating their registration by the CDM Executive Board. Besides operationalization of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, an International Conference on "Technology Development & Transfer" will be organized by the Ministry in 2009-10.

The e-governance project of the Ministry aims at reinforcing of Business process by introducing intensive and extensive systemic reforms. Activities under the scheme in 2009-10, *inter alia*, include appointment of consultant for stage 3 of the project, appointment of consultant for IT and non IT training programmes, imparting of training to e-champions, setting up of a quality assurance group in the ministry and implementation of security policy and roadmap.

Policy Initiatives and Reform Measures

To enable environmentally sustainable use of coastal resources, it has been decided to revamp the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 1994 in line with the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee. Towards this end, a draft Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification was issued in May 2008 by way of public consultations. Comments/suggestions received from various stakeholders are under examination of the Ministry.

The Law Commission in its 186th Report had, *inter-alia*, recommended establishment of 'Environment Court' in each State, which was accepted by this Ministry in principle. The Ministry is in the process of preparing the draft legislation for the purpose, in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice. A draft National Green Tribunal Bill (NGT) is under formulation in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 was amended to provide for enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. Based on the initiative announced in Union Budget 2008-09, the proposal for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force has been approved. Advisory has been sent to Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand for initiating steps for deploying the Force in Dudhwa, Ranthambhore and Corbett tiger reserves, with 100% Central assistance during the current financial year.

In order to regulate the trade in wild plants and animals so as to ensure that international trade does not result in the extinction of any species of wildlife and also to give effect in India to the provisions contained in CITES, it is proposed to introduce a new Chapter V B in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The draft Bill & the Note for the Cabinet have been vetted by the Ministry of Law & Justice and the Note for the Cabinet has been forwarded for approval of the Cabinet Committee.

The National Action Plan on Climate Change outlines our strategy to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of our development path. Eight National Missions, which form the core of the National Action Plan, representing a multi-pronged, long term and integrated approach, are under formulation. The Ministry will play a coordinating and implementing role after the Missions are finalized.

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms and ecological complexes of which they are part, including diversity within and between species and ecosystems. It has direct consumptive value in food, agriculture, medicine and industry. Towards its conservation, a National Biodiversity Action Plan, consistent with the National Environment Policy 2006 has been released in November 2008. The Plan identifies major threats and constraints facing biodiversity and lists out action points for addressing/conserving the same.

The World Bank aided project on Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management aims at providing comprehensive framework for investments in remediation of legacy sites which pose significant hazard to communities and meet the criteria of a public good. The project is proposed to be implemented in two states of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal on pilot basis in 2009-10.

Based on the experience gained in implementation of the EIA Notification, 2006 and to further streamlining the process, a draft amendment to this Notification has been issued on January, 2009 for seeking comments/suggestions from various stake holders within sixty days. The Notification will be finalized in the light of comments received from various stakeholders.

It is proposed to issue amendments to the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 (BMW Rules). Also, issue of approved amendments to the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000 (MSW Rules) is also proposed in 2009-10.

Given its unique status, Government has given Ganga the status of a 'National River' and has constituted a 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA). The NGRBA is an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River. The Authority has both regulatory and developmental functions and will take measures for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the

river Ganga, adopting river basin as the unit of planning. Under the provisions of the Authority, a Corpus Fund is to be provided by the Central Government to the Authority to implement its work programme.

A Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) was approved by the Government in March, 2008 with a proviso to frame legislation constituting a Compensatory Afforestation Fund. The CAMPA Fund will hold all monies received from user agencies towards compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, Net Present Value, Catchment Treatment Plan, etc. A Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2008, introduced in Lok Sabha in May, 2008, could not be passed by the Parliament and stood lapsed with the constitution of new Lok Sabha. To resolve the deadlock of CAMPA, it has been decided to create State Level CAMPAs to provide an integrated framework for utilization of multiple sources of funding and activities relating to afforestation. Such implementation of State CAMPAs would be expedited in 2009-10 in consultation with the State Governments.

Ministry has initiated the process of developing a regulatory framework for management of diverse Entities of Incomparable values (EIVs). A draft regulatory framework developed by the Ministry in consultation with concerned stakeholders has been put on the Ministry's website and also sent to states for their comments. Considering such comments and further processing, the regulatory framework will be finalized in 2009-10.

National Museum of Natural History, which imparts non-formal environmental education, plans to set up new regional museums of natural history in the Western and North Eastern regions (Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan and Gangtok in Sikkim), work on which has already started.

The State of Environment Reporting process will be extended to metro city level and District level in phased manner. The preparation of SoE Report at the metro city level has been initiated with taking up the work for Hyderabad - Secunderabad metro cities in Andhra Pradesh. A National State of Environment Report will also be released in 2009-10.

A new scheme of Afforestation through PRIs (Panchayat Van Yojana) is currently under finalization. The objective of the scheme is to bring all unutilized/underutilized non forest village lands under tree cover with village institutions having full decision making authority on its management, use of products for value addition, and rights over the benefits generated. The scheme, which would be dovetailed with other rural development schemes, would facilitate enhanced community participation in afforestation. Project guidelines for the NAP scheme would also be modified to further strengthen its implementation.

The State of Forest Report, published biennially, provides an assessment of latest forest cover in the country and monitors changes in the same. The report is basically a barometer to assess the impact of various programmes and policies implemented in the country for development of forestry resources. The State of Forest Report 2007 will be released in 2009-10.

A project to develop a National Forestry Database Management System at the National level has been launched to effectively monitor the programmes of the Ministry and ensure adequate networking with the States/UTs Forest Departments. Ministry has constituted a National Working Group/Governing Body to frame the policy guidelines on 'forest certification' for timber and Non-Timber Forest Products. It has also constituted an SFM Cell on the recommendations of the National Task Force on Sustainable Forest Management.

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1. FUNCTIONS

The Ministry of Environment & Forests started functioning from 4th January, 1985. The Ministry plans, promotes and co-ordinates environmental and forestry programmes. The Ministry's main activities include conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife, prevention and control of pollution, afforestation and re-generation of degraded areas, protection of the environment, ensuring welfare of animals and research related to these topics. The tasks are being fulfilled through environmental impact assessment, Eco-regeneration, assistance to organisations implementing environmental and forestry research, extension, education and training to augment the requisite manpower, collection and dissemination of environmental information and creation of awareness at the national level.

2. ORGANISATIONAL SET UP

The organizational structure of the Ministry covers number of Divisions, Directorate, Board, Subordinate Offices, Autonomous Institutions, and Public Sector Undertakings. The Ministry has following main wings, namely;

- (a) Environment
- (b) Forests & Wildlife;
- (c) National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board;
- (d) National River Conservation Directorate.
- (e) Animal Welfare

Six regional offices of the Ministry, located at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Lucknow, Shillong and Chandigarh, perform the functions of monitoring and evaluation of on-going forestry development projects and schemes with specific emphasis on conservation of forests and follow up of implementation of conditions and safeguards laid down by the Ministry for project activities where environmental clearance is given.

The Ministry has also the following subordinate offices:

- I. Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata
- II. Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata
- III. National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi
- IV. Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun
- V. Directorate of Forest Education, Dehradun
- VI. Forest Survey of India, Dehradun
- VII. National Zoological Park, New Delhi, and
- VIII. National Institute of Animal Welfare, Faridabad

For the attainment of its objectives, the following autonomous/statutory bodies/registered societies have also been funded by the Ministry.

Environment & Ecology

- (i) Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi.
- (ii) G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Almora.
- (iii) Centres of Excellence:
 - (a) Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad.
 - (b) Centre for Ecological Sciences, Bangalore.
 - (c) Centre of Mining Environment, Dhanbad.

- (d) C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar Centre for Environment Education, Madras.
- (e) Salim Ali Centre of Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore.
- (f) Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Eco-system, Delhi University
- (g) Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram.
- (h) Madras School of Economics, Chennai.
- (i) Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore
- (j) Centre for Animals and Environment, CARTMAN, Bangalore

(iv) National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai

Forestry and Wildlife

(i) Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) has 8 research institutes and four advanced centres spread all over the country. Each centre is attached to an institute. Following are institutes and centres of ICFRE:

- a) Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.
 - b) Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur
 - c) Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur
 - d) Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore
 - e) Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla
 - f) Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat
 - g) Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi
 - h) Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore.
 - i) Forest Research Centre, Hyderabad
 - j) Centre for Forestry Research and Human Resource Development, Chhindwara
 - k) Centre for Social Forestry & Eco-rehabilitation, Allahabad
 - l) Advanced Research Centre for Bamboo and Rattans, Aizawl
- (ii) Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore.
 - (iii) Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.
 - (iv) Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
 - (v) Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi.
 - (vi) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi
 - (vii) National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi
 - (viii) Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai

The Ministry also has one Public Sector Undertaking viz., Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest Plantation Development Corporation Limited at Port Blair.

3. MANDATE

The Ministry's mandate includes the following Allocation of Business:

- ❖ Environment and Ecology, including environment in coastal waters, in mangroves and coral reefs but excluding marine environment on the high seas.
- ❖ Environment research and development, education, training, information and awareness.
- ❖ Environmental Health.
- ❖ Environmental Impact Assessment.
- ❖ Hazardous Substances Management.
- ❖ Forest Development Agency and Joint Forest Management Programme for conservation, management and afforestation.
- ❖ Survey and Exploration of Natural Resources particularly of Forest, Flora, Fauna, Ecosystems etc.
- ❖ Bio-diversity Conservation (including lakes and wetlands) including implementation of Biological Diversity Act.
- ❖ Conservation, development, management and abatement of pollution of rivers, which shall include National River Conservation Directorate.

- ❖ Wildlife conservation, preservation, protection planning, research, education, training and awareness including Project Tiger and Project Elephant.
- ❖ International co-operation on issues concerning Environment, Forestry and Wildlife.
- ❖ Botanical Survey of India and Botanical Gardens.
- ❖ Zoological Survey of India.
- ❖ National Museum of Natural History.
- ❖ Biosphere Reserve Programme.
- ❖ National Forest Policy and Forestry Development in the country including Social Forestry.
- ❖ All matters relating to Forest and Forest Administration in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Indian Forest Service.
- ❖ Wild Life Preservation and protection of wild birds and animals.
- ❖ Fundamental and applied research and training including higher education in forestry.
- ❖ Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.
- ❖ National Assistance to Forestry Development Schemes.
- ❖ Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore.
- ❖ Afforestation and Eco-development which shall include National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board.
- ❖ Desert and Desertification including U.N. Convention to combat Desertification
- ❖ Forest Survey of India.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Bio-diversity, Itanagar.
- ❖ Central Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development.
- ❖ Wildlife Institute of India and Indian Board for Wildlife.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Forest Management.
- ❖ Central Zoo Authority including National Zoological Park.
- ❖ Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education.
- ❖ Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited.
- ❖ Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- ❖ Matters relating to pounds and cattle trespass.
- ❖ Gaushalas and Gausadans.
- ❖ The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960).
- ❖ The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 (27 of 1995).
- ❖ The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997 (22 of 1997).
- ❖ The Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974 (6 of 1974).
- ❖ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 (36 of 1977).
- ❖ The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (14 of 1981).
- ❖ The Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927).
- ❖ The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972).
- ❖ The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980).
- ❖ The Environment (Protection), Act, 1986 (29 of 1986).
- ❖ The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 (6 of 1991)

4. MAJOR PROGRAMMES/SCHEMES

Pursuant to directions from the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry, large number of ongoing Plan schemes of the Ministry was clubbed/merged into broad thematic schemes as a measure of rationalization exercise carried out by the Ministry for its 11th Five Year Plan. The following thematic schemes, with each scheme having further components/programmes, have been approved by the Planning Commission for the 11th Plan of the Ministry:

- ❖ National River Conservation Plan
- ❖ National Afforestation Programme (NAP)
- ❖ Social Forestry with communities (Panchayat Van Yojana)
- ❖ Integrated development of wildlife Habitats
- ❖ Intensification of Forest Management

- ❖ Conservation of Natural resources and ecosystems
- ❖ Project Tiger
- ❖ Grants-in-aid to forestry and Wildlife institutions
- ❖ Research and development for Conservation and Development
- ❖ National Afforestation and Eco Development Board , NAEB
- ❖ Environmental Information, Education and Awareness
- ❖ Pollution Abatement
- ❖ Environmental monitoring and Governance
- ❖ Strengthening of Wildlife Division
- ❖ Animal Welfare
- ❖ Capacity building in forestry sector
- ❖ Strengthening of Forestry Division
- ❖ Project Elephant
- ❖ International Cooperation Activities
- ❖ Gregarious Flowering of Muli Bamboos
- ❖ National Coastal Management Programme
- ❖ Environmental Management in Heritage, Pilgrimage and Tourist Centres including Taj Protection

On the non plan side, the major scheme relates to Water cess.

5. GOALS

The Ministry of Environment & Forests is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government, for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of environmental and forestry programmes and policies. While implementing these policies and programmes, the Ministry is guided by the principle of sustainable development and enhancement of human well-being. The Ministry also serves as the nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and for the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Ministry is also entrusted with the issues relating to multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and of regional bodies like Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to environment.

The main tools utilized to attain these goals and objectives, *inter alia*, include surveys, impact assessment, control of pollution, regeneration programmes, support to organizations, research to solve problems relating to environment and provide training to augment the requisite manpower, collection and dissemination of environmental information and creation of environmental awareness among all sectors of society in the country.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is primarily concerned with the implementation of policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources including lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, ensuring the welfare of animals and prevention and abatement of pollution. These objectives are well supported by a set of legislative and regulatory measures, aimed at the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment. Besides the legislative measures, a National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development, 1992, National Forest Policy, 1988, a Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution, 1992 and a National Environment Policy, 2006 have also been evolved.