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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Forest Policy Division

Draft National Forest Policy, 2018

1.   Preamble

1.1   Forests are a dynamic ecosystem consisting of plants, animals & microorganisms safeguarding the ecological security of the nation. Forests provide the carbon neutral timber, non timber products like medicines, grasses, & other ecosystem services essential for the very survival of the human beings.

1.2   The forest policies of 1894 & 1952 have stressed on the production& revenue generation aspects of the forests where as the principal aim of National Forest Policy, 1988 was to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which are vital for sustenance of all life forms, human, animals and plants. The 1988 Policy recognized that derivation of direct economic benefits must be subordinated to this principal aim. This policy has been instrumental in strengthening ecological security, sustainable forest management, and participatory forest management.

1.3   In the meantime India has been participating in several international summits and conventions on protection of forests, wildlife and environment and stands committed to the goals set in there. Several objectives have also emerged during debates and deliberations in seminars and workshops at National Level. In view of these it has become necessary to incorporate these goals and objectives in the National Forest Policy.

1.4   As a result of the implementation of the 1988 policy prescriptions, there has been an increase in forest and tree cover and reduction in the diversion of forest land for other land uses despite compelling demands from the increasing population, industrialization and rapid economic growth. However the , low quality and low productivity of our natural forests, impacts of climate change, human-wildlife conflict, intensifying water crisis, increasing air and water pollution and deteriorating environment have been the issues of serious concern.. The increased concerns for biodiversity conservation and the need to enhance forest ecosystem services, through new technological advancements and the continuously declining investments in the sector present new challenges for forest management in the country.

1.5   Hence there is a need to revise the National Forest Policy, 1988 in order to integrate the vision of sustainable forest management by incorporating elements of ecosystem security , climate change mitigation and adaptation, forest hydrology, participatory forest management, urban forestry, robust monitoring and evaluation framework and establishment of mechanisms to oversee multi-stakeholder convergence in forest management, while building on our rich cultural heritage of co-existence and relying on our rich and diverse forest resources.

2.   Goal and Objectives

The overall objective and goal of the present policy is to safeguard the ecological and livelihood security of people, of the present and future generations, based on sustainable management of the forests for the flow of ecosystem services In order. to achieve the national goal for eco-security, the country should have a minimum of one-third of the total land area under forest and tree cover. In the hills and mountainous regions, the aim will be to maintain two-third of the area under forest & tree cover in order to prevent soil erosion and land degradation and also to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-systems.

The following objectives shall be guiding the National Forest Policy.

2.1 Maintenance of environmental stability and conservation of biodiversity through preservation and conservation of natural forests.

2.2 Reverse the degradation of forest by taking up rehabilitation without compromising its natural profile.

2.3 Improvement in livelihoods for people based on sustainable use of ecosystem services.

2.4 Contribute towards achieving forestry related Nationally Determined Contribution Targets (NDC's) of the country.

2.5 Checking denudation and soil erosion in the catchments of rivers and the wetlands through integrated watershed management techniques and practices.

2.6 Maintenance of the health of forest vegetation and forest soils for augmenting water supplies through recharge of underground aquifers and regulation of surface water flows.

2.7 Safeguard forest land by exercising strict restraint on diversion for non-forestry purposes, and strict oversight on compliance of the conditions.

2.8 Increasing substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through Afforestation & reforestation programmes, especially on all denuded and degraded forest lands and area outside forests.

2.9 Manage protected areas and other wildlife rich areas with the primary objective of biodiversity conservation and for enriching other ecosystem services.

2.10 Conserve and sustainably manage mountain forests to ensure continuous flow of ecosystem services, including watershed, biodiversity, cultural and spiritual services to both upstream and downstream population.

2.11 Factor green accounting, valuation of ecosystem services and climate change concerns adequately into the planning and management of all forests, protected areas and other ecosystems.

2.12 Increase substantially the tree cover outside forests by incentivizing agro-forestry and farm forestry, facilitating assured returns, with enabling regulations and by promoting use of wood products.

2.13 Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in forest management through the mechanism of REDD+(Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus) so that the impacts of the climate change is minimised.

2.14 Incentivize sustainability in community managed, community owned private forests and creating a sustained peoples' movement for achieving these objectives.

2.15 Managing and expanding green spaces in urban and peri-urban areas to enhance citizens' well-being.

2.16 Ensure effective translation of this policy into action by establishing credible measuring, monitoring and evaluation framework, ensuring good governance, providing commensurate financial support and developing an implementation framework with periodic review.

3. Essential Principles of Forest Management:

The following essential management principles will be pursued in this policy:-

3.1 Existing natural forests should be fully protected and their productivity improved. Adequate measures will be taken to increase rapidly the forest cover on hill slopes, in catchment areas of rivers, lakes and reservoirs and ocean shores and, on semi-arid, and desert tracts.

3.2 Productivity of the forest plantations will be increased through scientific and technological interventions so as to encourage usage of more timber so that the dependency on other high carbon footprint wood substitutes is reduced.

3.3 Management of the natural biodiversity rich forests for maximising the ecosystem services for ecological security of the nation.

3.4 For conservation of flora, fauna and total biodiversity, the network of national parks, sanctuaries, conservation reserves, community reserves, biosphere reserves and important wildlife corridors and biodiversity heritage sites will be strengthened and extended adequately.

3.5   Afforestation with suitable species will be intensified so as to cater to the needs of the rural population for fuel wood and small timber. Further alternative sources of energy like LPG etc will be promoted in rural areas to reduce dependency on forests.

3.6   Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) such as medicinal and aromatic plants, oil seeds, resins, wild edibles, fibre, bamboo and grass etc. will be sustainably managed for improving the income of the tribals & other forest dependent populations.

3.7   Promotion of trees outside forests & urban greens will be taken up on a mission mode for attaining the national goal of bringing one third of the area under Forests & trees cover and also for achieving the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC's) targets of the country.

4.   Strategy:

The following strategies will be adopted to achieve the objectives of this policy

4.1.1   Sustainable Management of Forests

(a)   Reducing Threats to Forests

The various threats to Forests due to encroachments, illegal tree fellings, forests fires, invasive weeds, grazing, etc. will be addressed within the framework of the approved Working Plan/ Management Plan and also by ensuring community participation in forest management.

(b)   Forest fire prevention

With changes in climate and land use, fire is increasingly being viewed as a major threat to many forests and their biodiversity. Rising intensity and frequency of forest fires and their spread is resulting in substantial loss of forest functions and related ecosystem services every year. Adequate measures would be taken to safeguard ecosystems from forest fires, map the vulnerable areas and develop and strengthen early warning systems and methods to control fire, based on remote sensing technology and community participation. Also, awareness will be created about causes and impacts of fire on forests and local livelihoods.

(c)   Enhance Quality and Productivity of natural forests

Many of our forest ecosystems have been significantly altered and degraded due to land conversion, pollution, over exploitation, deforestation and degradation etc. with adverse impacts on biological diversity and livelihoods of the local population. Protection and enrichment of dense forests will be a top priority. Degraded forests will be rehabilitated by promoting natural regeneration, by taking strict protection measures and also by planting locally suitable indigenous species for assisting the existing regeneration.

(d)   Increase the productivity of forest plantations

Productivity of the forest plantations are poor in most of the States. This will be addressed by intensive scientific management of forest plantations of commercially important species like teak, sal, sisham, poplar, gmelina, eucalyptus, casuarina, bamboo etc. The lands available with the forest corporations which are degraded & underutilized will be managed to produce quality timber with scientific interventions. Public private participation models will be developed for undertaking Afforestation and reforestation activities in degraded forest areas and forest areas available with Forest Development Corporations and outside forests.

(e)   Protecting & enriching the Catchments

Schemes and projects which interfere with forests that cover steep slopes, catchments of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, geologically unstable terrain and such other ecologically sensitive areas shall be restricted. The

ecologically sensitive catchment areas shall be stabilized with suitable soil & water conservation measures and also by planting with suitable trees and grasses like bamboo etc.

(f) Biodiversity Conservation

Natural forests are rich repositories of biodiversity in the country. The following steps will be taken for the conservation of the biodiversity in the natural forests.

(i) Biodiversity of the forest areas of the country will be surveyed and documented systematically, and sites having exceptional taxonomic and ecological value will be conserved. Legal and administrative measures for protection of biodiversity against bio-piracy will be taken, in sync with National Biodiversity Act.

(ii) Modern techniques of ex-situ conservation will be promoted for the preservation of Relic, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species.

(g) Management of forests to be as per the approved Working Plan

Management of forests & forest plantations will be done as per the Central Government approved Working/Management plans, and also in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change from time to time. Private forests/ forest plantations/ tree lots will be regulated as per the management plans.

(h) Strengthen participatory forest management

India has rich and varied experience in participatory forest management. There is a need to further strengthen this participatory approach, for which a National Community Forest Management (CFM) Mission will be launched. This mission will have a legal basis and an enabling operational framework.. The national, state and local level development programmes shall be converged in these villages. All efforts to ensure synergy between Gram Sabha & JFMC will be taken for ensuring successful community participation in forest management.

(i) Management of Non Timber Forest Produce

Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) such as medicinal and aromatic plants, oil seeds, resins, wild edibles, fibre, bamboo, grass etc. provide sustenance to forest dependent communities by supplementing their food and livelihood security. Such produce should be managed sustainably ensuring increased employment and income opportunities for the local communities. Value Chain approach that is climate-smart and market oriented and embedded in sustainability would be made compulsory and part of the business plans related to NTFP.

4.1.2 Management of trees outside forests

(a) Promote agro-forestry and farm forestry

Agro-forestry and farm forestry have taken deep roots in the country and Trees Outside Forests (TOF) are contributing to the increase in tree cover and enhancing ecosystem services, while meeting a bulk of the country's wood demand and providing climate resilient incomes to the farmers.. Thus promotion of wood use obtained from sustainably managed forests and trees would play a significant role in mitigating climate change and ensuring sustainable living. In view of this the following measures will be taken:

(i) Agro-forestry and farm forestry would be encouraged through commensurate incentives and operational support systems..

(ii) Systems for certification of improved planting material would be put in place.

(iii)   Price assurance to the farmers would be facilitated by putting in place pre-production agreements between the farmers and the forest based industries.

(iv)   Suitable location specific Public Private Partnership models will be developed involving Forest Departments, Forest development Corporations, Communities, Public limited companies etc for achieving the target of increased forest & tree cover in the country.

(v)   Promotion of cultivation, harvesting, transportation and marketing of wood would be ensured by relaxing the existing felling and transit regime in the country. Inclusion of agro forestry & farm forestry in the Agricultural crop insurance scheme would be facilitated. Also, agro forestry and farm forestry crop will also be included in National crop insurance scheme.

(vi)   Massive awareness and extension services for promotion of agro forestry will also be launched.

(b)   Promoting urban greens

Urban greens include woodlands, wetlands, parks, wood in institutional areas, gardens, avenue plantations, block plantations etc in such areas. These green patches bring many aesthetic, recreational, environmental and economic benefits to cities and their dwellers. They need to be managed as urban forest ecosystems to enhance optimal urban forest cover and to nurture and sustain urban health, clean air and related benefits. Management plans will be prepared and implemented in consonance with the development plan of cities.

4.2   New Thrust Areas in forest & tree cover Management

4.2.1   Production Forestry

The demand for timber and other forest produce is showing an increasing trend and is likely to continue as the economy grows. The dependence on import has also been increasing drastically over the years. In order to ensure self sufficiency in timber, the States would be encouraged to further develop their plantation programmes with scientific inputs and genetically improved planting materials.

4.2.2   Economic valuation of the forests

Forests provide a wide range of tangible benefits like timber, fuel wood, fodder and a wide range of NTFPs and intangible benefits like ecological services, hydrological benefits, soil conservation, flood control, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, amelioration of the overall environment, etc. Contribution of the forest to the national economy is estimated generally on the basis of the recorded removals of industrial wood, fuel wood and NTFPs, which is abysmally low as compared to the actuals. Scientific methods   will be evolved for appropriate valuation of forests and their services through institutions of repute.

4.2.3   Forest management for water recycling

Water is critical for all life forms and is one of the most valuable outputs from the forests. Healthy forest ecosystems helps recharge of aquifers by increasing percolation and reducing surface runoff, thereby nourishing springs, streams, rivers and other aquatic systems. Forests and other ecosystems that function as key catchments need to be identified and conserved. Scientific catchment area treatment plans will be prepared and executed as part of the forest working/ management plans.

4.2.4   Forest Certification

A Credible certification process can provide premium on the products, which can enhance value of forest product harvested sustainably. Adoption of appropriate certification regimes will be encouraged though phase wise adoption of compatible standards and institutional framework in forest management.

4.2.5   Integrate climate change concerns & REDD+ strategies in forest management:

Forests acts as a natural sink of carbon dioxide thereby assisting in climate change mitigation. Use of wood products which have minimum carbon foot print will result in substitution of more emission-intensive

resources, by locking up carbon. Climate change impacts the structure, composition and functions of forest ecosystems, progressively affecting the embedded and dependent life forms. Strategic actions especially sustainable forest management as envisaged in REDD+ reference document for the country will be taken to strengthen forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation as indicated below:

(a) Afforestation and reforestation and assisting natural regeneration of the forests would be taken up to create an additional carbon sink while increasing the forest and tree cover and enhancing ecosystem services. All efforts for improving the quality of the degraded natural forests will be undertaken through appropriate interventions.

(b) Agro-forestry and farm forestry sector will be encouraged to realise their full potential.

(c) Sensitive ecosystems such as coastal and marine areas, mangroves, temperate and sub-alpine forests, alpine meadows, Western and Eastern Ghats etc. will be specially safeguarded.

(d) Climate change concerns will be factored in all the forest and wildlife areas working/management plans and Community Ecosystem Management Plans.

(e) Steps would be taken for promotion of wood technology innovations and enterprises. Intensive marketing and branding campaigns such as "Wood Is Good", "Grow more wood- use more wood" will be taken up for promotion of growing trees and usage of wood products.

4.2.6 Develop a national forest ecosystems management information system

Lack of adequate of pan country reliable and compatible datasets in the forestry sector is a matter of serious concern. Such comprehensive and reliable datasets are essential for scientific planning and management. Systems need to be designed and put in place to ensure a regular flow of reliable data from the states and other sources and making it available in the public domain. A national forest ecosystems management information system will be developed and made operational using the latest information and communication technology. Assessment of growing stock & carbon stock in Indian forests will be given more stress and importance.

4.3 Strengthen Wildlife Management

India has rich diversity of wild flora and fauna housed in varied ecosystems. Despite serious conservation challenges, the wildlife management in the country has demonstrated gains in protection of flagship species, securing key habitats and re-establishing wildlife populations. However, our wildlife habitats and corridors are being constantly altered due to increasing anthropogenic pressures, rising human animal conflicts, illegal trade in wild species and climate change impacts. Hence, there is an urgent need to renew the efforts to safeguard wildlife and secure their habitats. Following actions will be undertaken in this regard:-

(a) Management of Protected Areas would be strengthened for preservation of habitats for maintaining natural biodiversity profile and ensuring natural pace of productivity, and flow of reproductive surpluses in surrounding areas for strengthening the stressed habitats outside PA's. The wildlife rich areas and corridors outside PA's would be identified and maintained for ensuring ecological and genetic continuity. Such areas would be effectively secured by strengthening enforcement, restoring habitats and managing ecological corridors.

(b) Assessment of species for survival and recovery measures based on population and habitat viability parameters would form an integral and regular part of management planning and practices.

(c) Human wildlife conflicts have escalated over the years due to combination of factors related to habitats and population of certain wildlife species within and outside forests. Regular spatial and temporal dynamics of conflicts would be assessed for formulating and implementing state level strategy for management of Human Wildlife Conflicts. Quick response, dedicated teams of well-equipped and trained personnel, mobility, strong interface with health and veterinary services, rescue centres, objective and speedy assessment of damage and quick payment of relief to the victims would be at the core of the short term action. Monitoring and management of population of wildlife would be adopted on a long term basis within and outside forests for maintaining the balance.

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(d) For tradable biodiversity a strong regime of inventory, assessment of status, and sustainability will be made part of the working/ management plans.

(e) Import and trade of exotic species, their uses and upkeep shall be subjected to strict regulations to ensure that the native biodiversity does not face genetic contamination.

(f) Wildlife crime and illegal trade pose grave challenge to conservation efforts. The existing central monitoring, sharing of information and on line updating of data on forest/ wildlife crime would be institutionalised and further strengthened. The detection, investigation and prosecution capacity shall be augmented by technical support in form of network of forensic laboratories.

(g) Ecotourism models would be developed with a focus on conservation of the sites and nature education of the visitors while supplementing the livelihood needs of the local communities and without compromising the profile of habitats and behaviour of wildlife.

(h) Zoological gardens, botanical gardens and biodiversity parks would be designed with modern and interactive methods for effective communication/interpretation about the value of flora and fauna as part of the awareness creation and nature education. Zoos and rescue centres would also be used for harbouring rescued species and conservation breeding.

(i) Trans boundary and regional cooperation will be strengthened to effectively manage wildlife across borders.

4.4 Facilitate forest industry interface

There is a need to stimulate growth in the forest based industry sector. This sector being labour intensive can help in increasing green jobs. Forest corporations and industrial units need to step up growing of industrial plantations for meeting the demand of raw material. Forest based industries have already established captive plantations in partnership with the farmers. This partnership needs to be further expanded to ensure an assured supply of raw material to the industries with mutually beneficial arrangements. Further a forum for interaction and collaboration would be set up for Forest based industries with forestry institutions and concerned stakeholders so that a demand for trained professionals is created in the sector.

4.5 Research and Education

Scientific research in forestry and wildlife is the back bone of forest management and contributes to understanding of the forest dynamics leading to pragmatic conservation planning. Forestry/ wildlife education has also been adopted by many institutions and the students graduating are finding several career opportunities within and outside government.

In this context, to facilitate contemporary research and education following measures will be taken:-

4.5.1 Focus of forestry research will be on integrated and multidisciplinary research on forests and forest products for increasing livelihood support and economic growth.

4.5.2 Research on Forest inventory including growth yield assessment of forest products, ecosystem services etc will be taken up on priority.

4.5.3 Intensive and need-based research for biodiversity conservation, reclamation of degraded and mined areas for ecological security, integrated pest management, invasive alien species management, forest fires, forest hydrology and carrying capacity of ecosystems etc will be taken up on priority.

4.5.4 Research on enhancing the capacity of the forest ecosystems for carbon sequestration will be taken up on priority.

4.5.5 Increasing forest productivity through forest genetic resource management and tree improvement will be emphasised.

4.5.6 Policy research on various forests related issues will be undertaken in changing national scenario.

4.5.7 Promotion of forestry education and adoption of forestry curriculum addressing the contemporary priorities will be stressed.

4.5.8 Infrastructure and expertise available with the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), and other allied and state institutions, will be strengthened keeping in view the future trends in sustainable management and conservation of forests.

4.5.9 Collaboration with regional and international institutions of repute will be strengthened for multidisciplinary research to meet the policy goals and objectives.

4.6 Extension and awareness

Conservation and development of forest and related ecosystems cannot be effective without the willing support, involvement and cooperation of the people. It is essential, therefore, to inculcate in the people, a direct interest in forests, in their development and conservation. There is a need to make them conscious of the values of trees, wildlife and nature in general. This can be achieved through active involvement and participation of local governments, schools, colleges, NGOs, community based organizations, Eco- clubs, PSUs, corporate houses, trade unions and other institutions. Extension of forests, trees and wildlife and creating awareness regarding their importance will be encouraged. National and state awards will be instituted to recognize and reward exemplary work, both in the individual and institutional categories.

4.7 Management of North-Eastern Forests

The forests of North-East are endowed with rich biodiversity. These forests in North-East have vital impact on climate, agriculture production, and mitigation of floods in the plain areas of North-East. Most of the forests (about 85%-90%) are community owned. The following steps are suggested for the management of these forests:-

4.7.1 These forests will be treated as mosaic of community forest management landscapes and will be delineated and mapped having well defined digitized boundaries.

4.7.2 The capacity building of forest management by democratic institutions such as existing autonomous district councils and other authorities in North-East will be taken up by the State Forest Departments. Departments will also play proactive role in preparation of working plan and working schemes and management plans of protected areas in the North-East in totality.

4.7.3 The community ownership and participation for forest protection, conservation and increase in cover will be ensured.

4.8 Legal and institutional frameworks

Appropriate laws, rules and regulations, as per requirement, will be put in place and existing ones suitably amended for effective implementation of this policy. Institutionalized legal support will form an integral part of the forest administration and management. **A National Board of Forestry headed by the central minister in-charge of forests and State Boards of Forestry headed by state minister in-charge of forests will be established** for ensuring inter-sectoral convergence, simplification of procedures, conflict resolution and periodic review.

4.9 Training and Skill development

Stress will be given on training of frontline staff who are at the cutting edge of the forest department. The Directorate of Forest Education and various state training institutions will be strengthened for undertaking trainings for the field functionaries of the departments. Forest Skill Development Centres for skilling forest dependent population in forestry sector jobs will be instituted with the help of National Skill Development Corporation & State Skill Development Agencies. Further forum for interaction and collaboration would be set up for Forest based industries with forestry institutions so that a demand for trained professionals is created in the sector.

4.10 Financial support

Forests and wildlife management and improvement in government forests for ecological security, is a cost intensive government mandate. Increasing the green cover and enhancing quality of forests area will be organised with appropriate dovetailing of various sectoral budgets. Therefore, innovative approaches are needed for achieving the targets set for greening the country. Following actions will be pursued.

4.10.1 The budget of the forestry sector of the states will be enhanced proportionately to the allocation of central resources devolved, based on the finance commission weightage on forest resources of the States. Allocations for community development programmes especially those of agricultural and rural development in the states will also be utilised in forest areas in proportion of the population linked to the forests for life support.

4.10.2 Central assistance to the states will be enhanced for research, trainings/HRD, support for management of community rights in forests and wildlife management. National flagship programmes like forestry and wildlife research, management of protected areas, species recovery of identified species, management of human wildlife conflict, combating wildlife crime will be further strengthened with central funds.

4.10.3 The Compensatory Afforestation fund which is being transferred to the states would be a major source of funds for taking up Afforestation & rehabilitation works in degraded forest areas as well as for bringing new areas under forest & tree cover.

4.10.4 Efforts for tapping funds from other national sectors like Rural Development, Tribal Affairs, National Highways, Railways, Coal, Mines, Power, etc., will be taken for appropriate implementation of linking greening with infrastructure and other development activities.

4.11 Harmonization with other policies and laws

Forests influence, and in-turn are influenced by activities and functions of different sectors such as Tribal affairs, mining, water, roads, tourism, agriculture, rural development, industry, irrigation and transmission lines etc. As far as community forest resources management under Forest rights Act is concerned, the new policy will address the same under participatory forest management and the same will be addressed through the proposed community forest management mission. It is also seen that the prescriptions under the farm forestry and urban greenings will ensure synergy with the existing agroforestry policy also. Necessary collaborative steps will also be undertaken to ensure that the policies, laws and programmes of various sectors, both at Centre and State level are in harmony with the objectives of this policy.

4.12 Assimilation of International Commitment and foster regional Cooperation

India is party to a number of international conventions and instruments which have a direct bearing on Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change and Country's commitment to Sustainable Development Goals. Integration and assimilation of these multilateral agreements and commitments, as well as regional instruments and protocols into forestry program, strategies and plans will be ensured. Regional cooperation for forestry though trans-boundary landscape will need to be strengthened.

4.13 Good governance

The public service delivery system will be strengthened by optimizing human resource availability at all levels, through massive capacity building efforts, reinforcing transparency and accountability measures, prompt grievance redressal and use of cutting edge technology. Institutional restructuring to enable effective implementation of this policy will be facilitated wherever needed. Human resource strategy for professional foresters and forest scientists will aim at attracting and retaining qualified and motivated personnel, keeping in view, particularly the arduous nature of duties often in remote and inhospitable places. Opportunities for professional growth and specialization will be provided and proper utilization of such specialization will be ensured.

4.14   Implementation framework and way forward

This policy envisages that a national implementation framework be put in place to deliver on these policy commitments. States will also prepare an implementation framework. Such national and state level implementation frameworks would specify measurable targets, objectively verifiable indicators, financial allocations, time schedules etc. using the logical framework approach. It will also reflect learning from past experience, identify administrative reforms required, public financing needed, institutional design, human resource strategies, re-structuring of institutions and forest management at all levels and measures for improving institutional capacity.

4.15   Periodic review

The National and State Boards of Forestry will review implementation of this policy periodically. The achievements and progress made in implementing this policy will be monitored to ensure smooth and time-bound translation of this policy into action.

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