

POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM FOR
MAINSTREAMING AND UP-SCALING
SUSTAINABLE LAND AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN INDIA



WORLD BANK GROUP



GEF

SLEM - PIU
DIRECTORATE OF EXTENSION
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
DEHRADUN

Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Programme

Land degradation, a decline in land quality due to natural or anthropogenic activities poses numerous challenges because of its adverse impact on agronomic productivity, the environment, its effect on food security and the quality of life. Associated with land degradation are the issues of loss of biodiversity, climate change and their impact on livelihoods. Globally, land degradation adversely affects the ecological integrity and productivity of about 2 billion Ha, nearly one-quarter of all landscapes under human use. In India, over thirty-two percent (105 million Ha) of the total geographic area of the country is undergoing processes of land degradation. With just two per cent of the total geographic area of the world and over seventeen per cent of the world's population, land degradation can have far reaching impacts on the growth trajectory of the country.

The Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Programme is a joint initiative between the Government of India (GOI) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), under the latter's Country Partnership Programme (CPP). The CPP was instituted by GEF to help countries address the issue of land degradation in a comprehensive and integrated manner. The SLEM-CPP is representative of GEF's Programmatic Approach, the objective of which is to secure larger-scale and sustained impact on the global environment. This is sought to be achieved through integrating global environment objectives into national or regional strategies and plans through partnerships. The GEF partners associated with the SLEM-CPP include the World Bank, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The SLEM-CPP in India consists of a number of projects spread across diverse ecological zones, with an overarching objective of poverty alleviation by promoting sustainable land management practices. These practices would lead to improved land and ecosystem productivity, and also reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events, including the effects of climate change.

Objectives of SLEM - CPP

The overall objective of the SLEM partnership is to contribute to poverty alleviation in India by promoting enhanced efficiency of natural resource use, improved land and ecosystem productivity, and reduced vulnerability to extreme weather events, including the effect of climate change. The immediate objectives of SLEM-CPP are the following:

- (i) Prevention and/or control of land degradation by restoration of degraded (agricultural and forested) lands and biomass cover and make sustainable use of natural resources in selected project areas;
- (ii) Enhancement of local capacity and institution building to strengthen land and ecosystem management;
- (iii) Facilitation of knowledge dissemination and application of national and international good practices in SLEM within and across states; and
- (iv) Replication and scaling-up of successful land and ecosystem management practices and technologies to maximise synergies across the UN Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD), Climate Change (FCCC), and Combating Desertification (CCD) conventions.

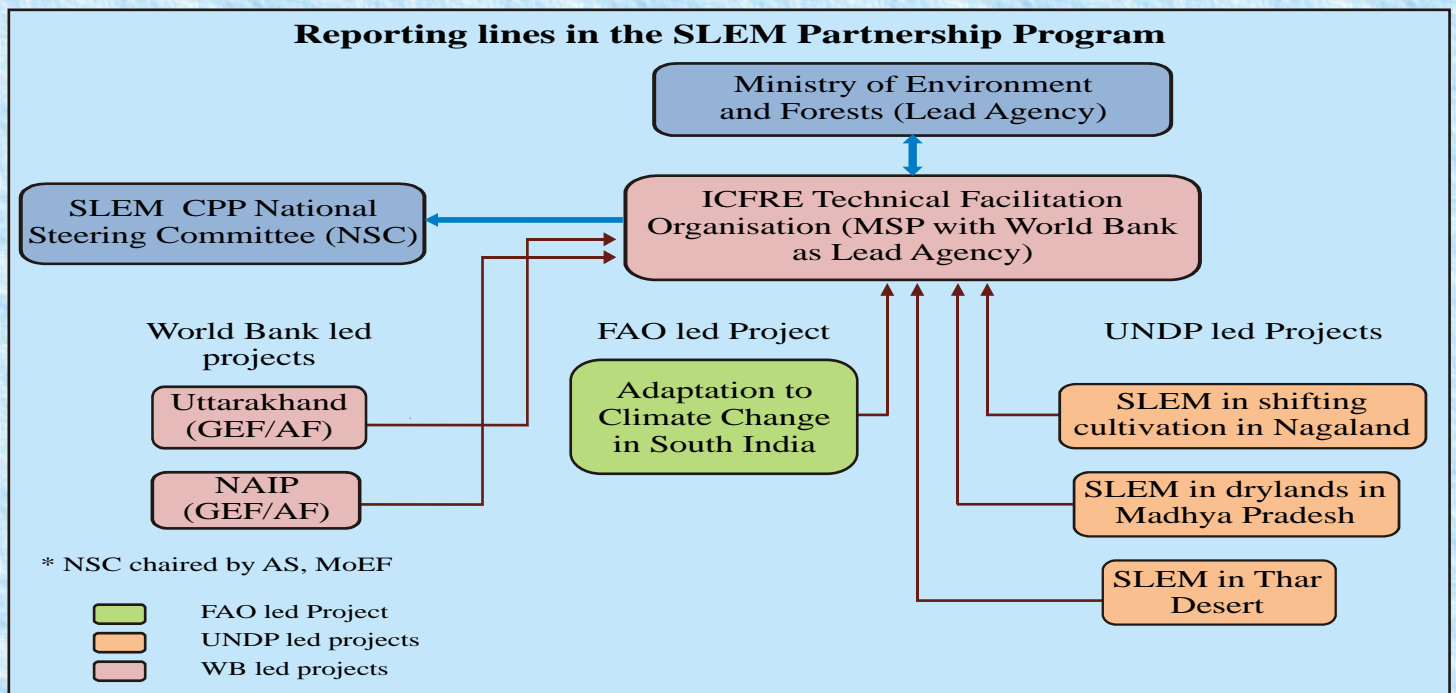
Policy Coordination

To ensure a smooth functioning across the SLEM Programme, coordination on policy will be achieved through a National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC has due representation of all key stakeholders under the Chairpersonship of Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, to provide policy guidance. The committee will meet twice in the first year and once every subsequent year to guide and advise the TFO and various Project authorities in their activities. The NSC has the following functions:

- To provide overall guidance to the SLEM Projects
- To ensure participation of other stakeholders and co-opt more members as per need
- To identify key policy and institutional reforms related to mainstreaming and up-scaling of best practices in the areas of Land Management, Water Harvesting and Conservation, Biodiversity Conservation, Adaptation to Climate Change etc; and suggest appropriate measures.

Technical Coordination

Technical coordination will be provided through a Technical Facilitation Organisation (TFO) anchored at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) - an apex body in the national forestry research system. Apart from solution based forestry research, the ICFRE also addresses the emerging issues in the sector, including global concerns such as climate change, conservation of biological diversity, combating desertification and sustainable management and development of resources. The Technical Facilitation Organisation (TFO) of the programme has been instituted at the ICFRE under a Medium Scale Project (MSP) entitled "Policy and Institutional Reform for Mainstreaming and Up-scaling Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India". Various divisions of the ICFRE Headquarters and Regional Forest Research Institutes will provide the requisite technical support as and when required to SLEM projects located in different parts of the country.



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SLEM Project Partners

Seven projects have been formulated under the SLEM-CPP. These include three projects each, being executed by the World Bank and the UNDP and one project by the FAO. Currently six of the seven projects are in various stages of implementation under the SLEM-CPP.

World Bank led Projects

1. Sustainable Land Water and Biodiversity Conservation and Management for Improved Livelihoods in Uttarakhand Decentralised Watershed Management. The project is being implemented by the Watershed Development Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
2. Sustainable Rural Livelihood Security through Innovations in Land and Ecosystem Management. The project is being implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
3. Policy and Institutional Reform for Mainstreaming and Up-scaling Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India. This project is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, through the TFO anchored at the ICFRE.

UNDP led Projects

4. Sustainable Land Management in Shifting Cultivation Areas of Nagaland for Ecological and Livelihood Security. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the State Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Government of Nagaland and Village Council and Village Development Boards.
5. Integrated Land and Ecosystem Management to Combat Land Degradation and Deforestation in Madhya Pradesh. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
6. Sustainable Participatory Management of Natural Resources to Control Land Degradation in the Thar Desert Ecosystem. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of Rajasthan and the Jal Bhagirathi Foundation (JBF).

FAO led Project

7. Reversing Environmental Degradation and Rural Poverty through Adaptation to Climate Change in Drought Stricken Areas in Southern India. The project will be implemented by Bharti Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS).

Activities of the SLEM Programme

This main activities and output of SLEM Programme are briefly described below:

- **Policy and Institutional Mainstreaming:** This includes development of the analytical baselines for harmonisation of SLEM policy, and technical instruments to monitor the progress of mainstreaming SLEM into the existing policy environment and find a common niche in inter-sectoral planning systems. This component also would also support an inter-institutional mechanism for SLEM policy coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Forests and other key Government of India agencies.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The sharing of lessons learned and emerging results tracked by monitoring and evaluation (M&E) forms an integral part of each constituent project as well as of the programme as a whole to help the mainstreaming and up-scaling of project results. The M&E function of the programme will be built on the basis of the results from analytical processes. The M&E parameters will include GEF specific aspects and draw upon GEF guidelines with regard to selecting M&E parameters. Monitoring at programme level would also contribute to the outreach, knowledge base, mainstreaming and up-scaling of successful policy initiatives and SLEM actions on-the-ground.
- **Up-Scaling of SLEM:** This includes inventorying of technical solutions and applicable practices for SLEM and establishing a database which will be accessible to sectoral organisations and the public at large. The technical base will be used for training and outreach activities. Learning and experiences in the social dimensions of sustainable land degradation will also be gathered and applied to the development of state and national policy, strategy and approaches. Outreach activities will be conducted to include NGOs and multilateral agencies to participate in the program.

For Further Information Contact

Project Director

SLEM - PIU

Directorate of Extension

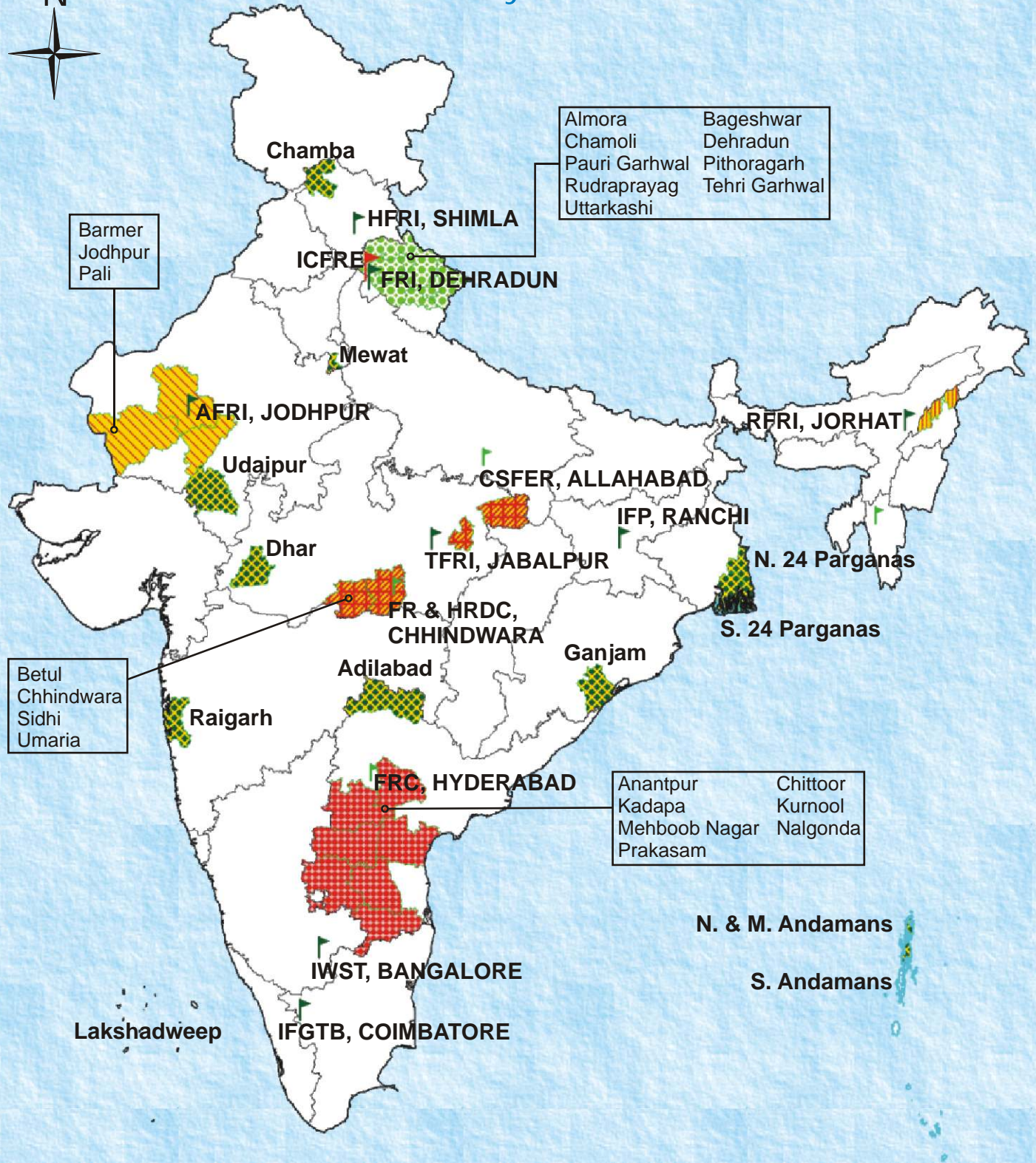
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Districts Currently Under SLEM-CPP



IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

- | | |
|---|---|
|  FAO & BIRDS
Theme : Climate Change Adaptation and Poverty Alleviation |  UNDP & Dept. of S & W Conservation
Theme : Sustainable Jhum Cultivation |
|  UNDP, JBF & Govt. of Rajasthan
Theme : Combating Desertification |  WB & WMD - Uttarakhand
Theme : Sustainable Watershed Management |
|  UNDP & MP Forest Department
Theme : Combating Land Degradation |  WB & ICAR - NAIP
Theme : Agricultural Innovation |
|  ICFRE - TFO
Theme : Policy & Institutional Reforms |  Research Institute |