



Climate Responsive and Socially Inclusive Restoration of Shifting Cultivation Landscapes (ReStoRe)

CONTEXT

North-East India (NEI) has 2 global biodiversity hotspots – Indo-Burma and the Himalayas. NEI accounts for 27% of India's forest cover and is the only region in India that continues to lose forest cover. 86% of the forest loss in NEI is from open/community owned forests. The region is also India's biggest carbon sink; accounting for 28% of India's total carbon stock.

The project aims to develop and test innovative community-led forest landscape management approaches. ReStoRe will demonstrate that such approaches, supported by policies, institutional and financial frameworks, can contribute to India's climate goals, while ensuring ecosystem benefits for local communities. The project hypothesis is that landscape restoration approaches developed in partnership with communities, while respecting their cultural and ecological rights, will reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity. Furthermore, people will embrace sustainable management of forests when they derive direct and regular benefits.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the enabling conditions for planning, implementation, and scaling up of forest landscape restoration.

Specific objectives are:

- Innovative incentive-based models of community led restoration of forest landscapes for carbon positive and climate resilient development of local communities are validated.
- Improved empirical evidence and technical capacities support strengthening of the forest and land management frameworks at the state level.
- Community-led forest landscape restoration models get mainstreamed to achieve climate and forest restoration goals.



Natural Resource Management

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Area: Mitigation and Adaptation

Duration: 2023 - 2028 (Phase 1)
2028 – 2031 (Phase 2)

Budget: SDC CHF 8.3 million
GEF CHF 4.4 million;
Co-financing CHF 27 million

Partners:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- State Governments of Meghalaya and Nagaland
- District and Village Councils

Geographic Focus:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

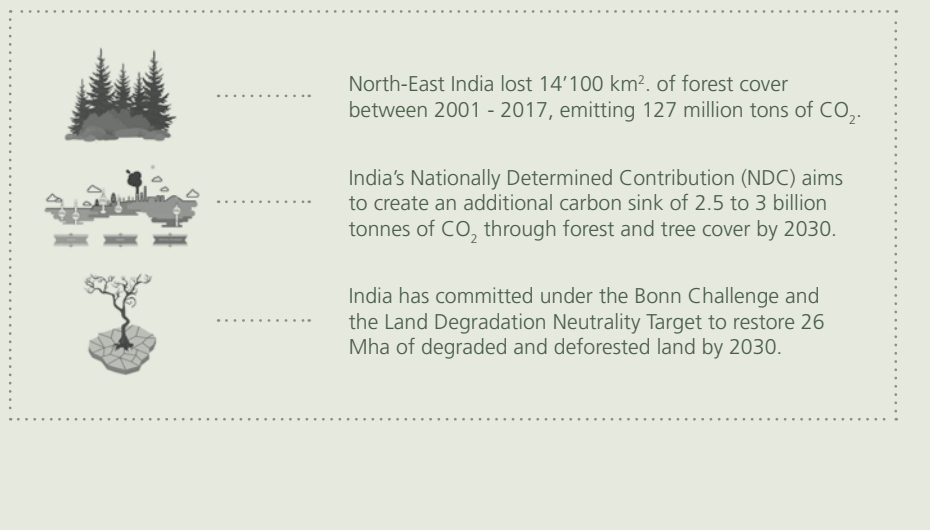
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and Cooperation SDC

PLANNED RESULTS

- The project will restore 10'000 hectares of forest fallows, benefitting 5000 shifting cultivation practicing households belonging to indigenous tribes in hilly tracts of NEI.
- Women will be a key target group as they perform 70% of the work related to shifting cultivation and water management.
- 150+ state and national level officials working with the forest, agriculture, rural development, land revenue and related departments will be trained as part of the project capacity building efforts.
- 4 innovative models for sustainable financing of forest landscape restoration will be tested.
- The scaling of the project approach through the state government using World Bank/other funds would in addition impact 20'000 households.



IN NUMBERS



All pictures @ SDC

ABOUT SDC IN INDIA

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a partner of India for more than 60 years. Since 2011, SDC's engagement focuses specifically on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and other environmental challenges. The office in India is part of SDC's strategic engagement on Climate, Disaster Risk Reduction and Environment. As part of its regional and global initiatives, SDC also has ongoing activities related to food systems, water and health in India.

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