

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION

- 1. Review and assess the existing policy and legal framework and their impact in a holistic manner from the ecological, economic, social and cultural viewpoint.**
- 2. Examine the current status of forest administration and the forestry institutions both at all India and State level to meet the emerging needs of the civil society.**
- 3. Make recommendations indicating specific policy options for achieving sustainable forest and wildlife management and ecological security.**
- 4. Suggest ways and means to make forest administration more effective with a view to help to achieve the above policy options.**
- 5. Establish meaningful partnership and interface between forestry management and local communities including tribal.**

A. PARTICULARS OF STAKEHOLDERS

1. Name of Respondent:
2. Designation (If holding any post in the organization represented)
3. Sex [Tick mark the appropriate box] M F

4. Mailing Address

House No.	Place	P.O.
District	State	Pin Code
Telephone [O]	Telephone [R]	Fax

5. e-mail Address

6. Category of the Respondent [Mark the appropriate box]:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Public representative: | Post held: |
| Central Ministry: | Name of Ministry |
| State Government: | Name of State Govt. |
| Forest Corporation | Name of Forest Corpn. |
| Representative of Association/Union: | Name of Association: |
| Education/Research Institute: | Name of Institute |
| Non-Government organization: | Name of NGO |
| Representative of villageLevel Organisation: | Name of Organisation |
| Representative of Industry: | Name of the Industry |
| Foreign Funding Agency/Institution/individual | Name of Agency |
| Experts/Researcher/Academician: | Field of Expertise |
| Environmentalists: | Field of Interest |

Tribals or their representatives: Area or Region
 Forest dwellers or their representatives: Region/Name of Forest
 Interested citizens/others: Occupation

B. FOREST POLICY FRAMEWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION

7. Are you aware of the policies of the Central and/or the State Government relating to Forests [√ Mark the appropriate]

Yes Partly Yes No

8. If yes, do you feel that formulation of forest policy has been done on the basis of suggestions of the village communities.

Yes No Do not know

9. If you are aware or partly aware of the forest policies of the Government, then please express your opinion about them. [√ Mark the appropriate]

You like them You dislike them You have a mixed reaction

Can't say anything

10. In case you like the forest policies of the Government, enumerate not more than five reasons of your liking [Please write down below]

1] 2] 3]
 4] 5]

11. In case you dislike the forest policies of the Government, enumerate not than five reasons of your disliking [Please write down below]

1] 2] 3]
 4] 5]

12. In case you have a mixed reaction to the forest policies of the Government then please enumerate not more than three points each of likes and dislikes [Please write down below]

LIKES

1] 2] 3]

DISLIKES

1] 2] 3]

13. Do you feel that there are opportunities in utilization of local traditional knowledge on the forest policy for preservation & utilization of forests.

Yes No Partly yes

14. Do you think that the present forest policies of the Government are providing services [good for ecology including soil and water conservation meeting daily needs of fuel fodder, economic benefit, social and economic upliftment] to the society and has been successfully achieving its desired objectives. [√ Mark the appropriate]

Yes Partly yes No Can't say anything

15. What is the opinion of the society about the present forest policy?

Forest belongs to society Partly yes No Can't say anything

16. If you think that the present policies of the Government are not providing services to the society as has not been able to achieve the desired objectives then please suggest various steps you think the Government should take in making a shift in its policy [enumerate all steps]

1] 2] 3]

4] 5]

Add more, if necessary. May include a separate page

17. Do you think that the State Forest Departments and other institutions are able to implement the forest policies effectively? [√ Mark the appropriate box]

Yes Partly yes No You have a mixed reaction

Can't say anything

18. If your answer is not "Yes" then please suggest various steps you think Government should take to ensure effective implementation of the policies.

19. Do you think that the forestry sector gets sufficient fund to support forestry activities? [√ Mark the appropriate box]

Yes Partly yes No

Can't say anything

20. If your answer is not “Yes” then please indicate various ways by which adequate resources could be mobilized to support forestry activities in the country.
21. Do you think that the forestry sector has effective mechanism to monitor and evaluate forest policies? [Mark the appropriate box]
- Yes Partly yes No Can't say anything
22. From ecological, economic, social and cultural point of view what, in your opinion, has been the impact of the existing forest policies of the Government and their implementation?
23. Do you think the forest department of your State is able to implement the forest policies effectively, if not that what are your suggestions?
24. Is the current forest policy promoting development and extension of new technology adequately?
25. Do you think that corporate or private sector should have a role to play in the development of forests, if so in what way?
26. Should non-forest activity be permitted in forest area? If yes then which type can be permitted and what steps should be taken so as to ensure increase in forest cover and preservation of biodiversity.
27. What steps should be taken to control illicit felling of trees and encroachments in the forest area?
28. To what extent and in what manner and in which forest should the felling of trees be, if at all, permitted?
29. To what extent the Joint Forest Management Programme has been successful and what improvements are needed to make it more successful?
30. What has been your opinion about contribution of villagers for conservation of forests?
31. Do you think that there should be a change in the existing forest policies of the Government? If yes then what changes should be there so that the forest cover increases to 25 per cent by 2007 and 33 per cent by 2012 while keeping in mind the applicability of the principle of sustainable development?
32. Do you have any other suggestion to make on policy framework and implementation, if yes, please enumerate.

C. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

33. In your opinion what is the level of legal awareness in the country, especially among forest dweller? [√ Mark the appropriate box]

- Very high High Low Very low
 Can't say anything

34. If your answer is not “very high” or “high” then please suggest steps that Government should take to increase legal awareness.

35. What is your opinion about Forest Laws/Rules? [√ Mark the appropriate]

Name of law	Doesn't require change	Minor changes required	Major changes required	Can't say
India/State Forest Act 1927/xx				
Wildlife Protection Act, 1972				
Forest Conservation Act, 1980				
Environment Protection Act, 1986				
Regulations on felling of trees on private land				
Transit of Forest Produce Rules				
Others				

36. If you have suggested changes in the Forest Law/Rules then give your suggestion for the changes you would like to be made in them [Name the law first and then suggest changes in each of them] Add additional pages, if necessary.

Name of the Law	Changes suggested		
	Number	Suggested change	Reasoning for suggestions
_____	_____	_____	_____

45. What are your suggestions for providing adequate protection to wild animals, plants and water? [Name any five below]
- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | |
46. What is the role, which can be played by the tribal and the local communities leaving and around the forest sanctuaries and national parks in the preservation, development and protection of biodiversity, ecology, wild life, water resources and water biodiversity and forest?
47. Are you aware of existence of communities who preserves and conserve sacred groves, wildlife and natural habitat. Is there any need to give protection and encouragement to such efforts?
48. What are your suggestions for man animals conflicts like damage to life and property by elephants, panthers, wild pigs ,Neelgai and monkeys in particular [Name any five below]
- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | |
49. Do you have any other suggestion on wildlife, if yes, please enumerate.

E. CURRENT STATUS OF FOREST ADMINISTRATION

50. What is your opinion about the forest administration? Are they able to meet the needs of the civil society and conservation of forests and wildlife. (✓ Mark the appropriate)
- [a] It has been successful
 [b] It has partly been successful
 [c] It has not been successful
51. If you feel that forest department has not been successful or has been partly successful, enumerate below reasons for holding this opinion
52. Please give suggestions (as many as you can by adding additional sheets) to make forest administration more effective in meeting the ecological, economic and social needs of the nation and be more responsible and provider of goods and results.

62. Is there any shortage of trained manpower in the forestry sector? (✓ Mark the appropriate box.)

Yes Partly Yes No You have a mixed reaction

Can't say anything

63. If your answer is not 'yes', then please suggest various steps you think should be taken to fill this gap.

64. You may be aware that the State Forest Departments in the last decade have tried to involve people in the management of forests by constituting committees such as Forest Protection Committee (FPC), Village forest committee (VFC), Eco-development Committee (EDC), Van Panchayat, etc. What is your opinion about the working of these committees? (✓ Mark the appropriate box.)

Type of committee	Your opinion				
	Working very effectively	Working effectively	Just satisfactory	Not satisfactory	Totally ineffective
VFC					
FPC					
EDC					
VP					

65. Has involvement of people in the forest management led to empowerment of the communities? (✓ Mark the appropriate box.)

Yes Partly Yes No You have a mixed reaction.

Can't say anything.

66. Do you think that the forestry sector through participatory approach can significantly contribute in ensuring livelihood security of the people living in and around forests? (✓ Mark the appropriate box.)

Yes Partly Yes No You have a mixed reaction

Can't say anything.

67. In your opinion, what steps should be taken to increase the contribution of the forestry sector in livelihoods of the people living in and around forests?

68. In your opinion, what steps should be taken to ensure livelihood security of the people living in and around forest

69. Do the JFM framework provides for well-defined role for the NGOs? (√ Mark the appropriate box)
- Yes Partly yes No Can't say
70. Has there been increase in income generation of the people through their involvement in Forest Management (√ the appropriate)
- Yes Partly yes No Can't say
71. Has there been increase in the availability of forest produce to .the people through their involvement in Forest Management (√ the appropriate)
- Yes Partly yes No Can't say
72. In what sphere or areas do you feel that there is need for research and development for solving recurring problems relating to forest conservation and management e.g. Sal borer, exotic weeds, drying of Sissoo, forest fires etc.
73. What do you think about the present research and management activities for the development of fuel wood, fodder, bamboo, medicinal plants and other non-wood forest products for their increased and sustained availability?
74. Do you think that the JFM approach can significantly contribute to the sustainability of livelihoods of the people living in and around forests? (√ Mark the appropriate box.)
- Yes Partly yes No Can't say
75. If your answer is 'yes' then please suggest various steps that forest department should take to make livelihoods of the people living in and around forests sustainable.
76. Has there been an increase in forest cover in your constituency? (√ Mark the appropriate box)
- Yes No Can't say
77. If forest cover in your area has not increased in the last 10 years, then enumerate five reasons for this (Please write down below)
78. In your opinion, what steps should be taken to increase the forest cover and achieve the target of 25% by 2007 and 33% by 2012 (enumerate 5 steps below)
79. How can the participation of tribal and other people help in implementing the Government forest policies and assist in increasing the forest cover (enumerate 5 steps below)
80. Does policy provide enough encouragement to the private sector to invest in forestry sector (plantation/forest based industry)? (√ Mark the appropriate box.)

90. If your village has been its own forests then please give the following details.
- (a) Legal status
 - (b) Management agency
 - (c) Status of demarcation of boundary
 - (d) Condition of village forests and three main reasons for this condition (very good/good/bad/disappointing)

Note: *Above questionnaire has been designed to elicit the views of the stakeholder related to the terms of reference of the Commission. Effort has been made to make the questionnaire self contained as well as simple. It might not cover some of the areas on which you would like to provide your views. Commission will welcome your views on any issue related to the TOR. Please use extra sheet for this purpose. We would appreciate brief and to the point opinion as it would help us in compilation*