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Meeting Global Commitments

Project Title

Preparation of India's 2nd National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Budget

Global Environment Facility (GEF): USD3.5 million; and Government of India: USD3 million

Duration

May 2007 - April 2010

Partners

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India; and Winrock India International

Project Location

All over India

Challenges

India is party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and periodically reports to the Convention about the national inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, impacts and vulnerability, and activities undertaken to mitigate climate change impacts.

The report gains significance due to India's large population, rapid economic growth rate and the volume of carbon emissions though the per capita carbon emission of roughly one tonne is among the lowest in the world.

India submitted its Initial National Communication (INC) in 2004 with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Response

The Second National Communication (SNC) preparation was launched in 2007, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Eighth Conference of Parties in 2002. The SNC report is to be furnished by June 2011.

The SNC will assess the current pattern of carbon emissions, especially from the five economic sectors that contribute to global warming. Apart from a detailed inventory of emissions of GHG in India, the vulnerability of selected sectors will be assessed and mitigation strategy developed. Such assessment will help to prioritise interventions needed in different sectors to reduce emissions. Winrock India International, a Delhi based environmental research organisation, supports the Government of India and the UNDP in implementing the project.

Impact

The INC report has brought out the following: -

- Inventory of GHG emissions of anthropogenic origin by sources and removals by sinks for the base year 1994 was 1,228 million tonnes of carbon dioxide:
 - The contribution of different gases included, 65 percent carbon dioxide, 31 percent methane, and four percent nitrous oxide.
 - The energy sector, the largest source of GHG emissions, constituted 61 percent of the total, followed by agriculture (28 percent), industrial processes and product use (eight percent), waste (two percent), and land-use, land use change and forestry contributed a meager one percent.

- Climate change projection scenarios:
 - An assessment of impacts of climate change in various sectors (water, agriculture, forest ecosystems and human health) was carried out.
 - Capacity-building, networking and outreach activities were undertaken that included website development for dissemination of information (www.natcomindia.org).

The SNC attempts to build on the institutional network created under the INC. One of the most significant and unique features of the SNC is the formation of the Work Programme on Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation involving 75 institutions. This network is developing an inventory of GHG emissions, assess vulnerability of sectors and provide recommendations for mitigation of climate change. A draft report on the national scenario of GHG inventories with the base year as 2000, and an initial assessment of vulnerabilities of different regions have been prepared.

For more information, please write to info.in@undp.org

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