

JICA SUPPORTED FORESTRY PROJECTS IN INDIA



Japan International
Cooperation Agency



JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

As a nodal implementing agency for the Government of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) contributes to promoting international cooperation and supporting human security and sustainable socio-economic development in partner countries. JICA works closely with communities to advance locally led development efforts and to foster environments where countries can pursue their own development pathways.

JICA aims to serve as a platform for mutual learning and co-creation between Japan and partner countries, enabling the exchange of knowledge and experiences that can strengthen collaborative problem-solving and shared growth.



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JICA INDIA OFFICE

In my role as the Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) India Office, I have come to appreciate India's dynamism and its immense potential for global growth. Alongside this, however, lie complex challenges—key among them is the protection of the country's rich biodiversity and forest ecosystems, which are vital for global environmental sustainability. With climate change intensifying, the importance of forests as the green lungs of the nation cannot be overstated. India's National Forest Policy (1988) sets a target of 33% forest cover, and JICA has been a longstanding partner in these efforts since 1991. Through financial and technical assistance, we have supported forest and natural resource management through the Joint Forest Management approach, the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods, institutional capacity development, infrastructure improvement, digital transformation, and other initiatives across 25 states.

The forest sector has been one of JICA's core areas of cooperation in India for more than three decades. In fact, JICA is the largest international development agency among bilateral and multilateral partners, with cumulative commitments of JPY 333.40 billion extended through 34 ODA loan projects and 3 Technical Cooperation projects across 24 states. These efforts have led to concrete outcomes such as afforestation, reforestation, and regeneration of more than 2.4 million hectares; the establishment of over 20,000 Joint Forest Management Committees; and support for more than 35,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs), benefiting approximately 700,000 women.

Most recently, in March 2025, we extended an ODA loan of INR 440 crore for the Project for Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management. This project supports the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), state forest departments, and research institutions in advancing India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 13 and 15. In Punjab, where rapid agricultural expansion, deforestation, and groundwater depletion pose significant ecological risks, JICA has launched the Punjab Biodiversity and Natural Resources Conservation Project with an ODA loan of INR 669 crore. This project promotes sustainable forestry and livelihood enhancement while strengthening climate resilience.

JICA's strategy for the coming years is evolving to address emerging needs and opportunities. While climate adaptation and mitigation remain central, we now focus on two transformative pillars: Wood Transformation (WX) and Digital Transformation (DX)—to create value through sustainable timber-based industries and to leverage

technology for smarter, more transparent forest governance. These initiatives are expected to further enhance the sustainability of India's forestry sector and bring private enterprises, researchers, and innovative technologies into this domain.

We are also proud to support regional collaboration through the Climate-Resilient Forest Management Training for Nepal, sharing best practices and strengthening capacity across borders in alignment with the India–Japan cooperation framework in third countries.

This booklet provides an overview of JICA-supported forestry initiatives and best practices under several projects implemented across different states. JICA remains committed to advancing India's forest conservation efforts through long-term partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and sustainable development.

Personally, I feel it is a privilege to lead JICA India during this transformative period, and I look forward to strengthening our collaboration for a greener, more resilient future.



TAKEUCHI Takuro
Chief Representative, JICA India Office

ONGOING FORESTRY PROJECTS



ODA Loan Projects

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | Uttarakhand Forest Resources Management Project |  11,390 |  2014 |
|  | Nagaland Forest Management Project |  6,224 |  2017 |
|  | Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (Phase 2) |  14,512 |  2017 |
|  | Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Management and Livelihoods Improvement Project |  11,136 |  2018 |
|  | Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management in Tripura |  12,287 |  2018 |
|  | Project For Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya |  10,397 |  2020 |
|  | Project for Ecosystem Restoration in Gujarat |  13,757 |  2020 |
|  | Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response |  10,535 |  2022 |
|  | The Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal |  9,308 |  2023 |
|  | Project for Climate Change Response and Ecosystem Services Enhancement in Rajasthan |  26,133 |  2024 |
|  | Punjab Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation Project |  11,480 |  2025 |
|  | Project for Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management |  8,280 |  2025 |

Uttarakhand Forest Resources Management Project

Date of Loan Agreement: April 11, 2014

Loan Amount: JPY 11,390 million

Executing Agency: Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand

Project Description: The objective of the project is to enhance eco-restoration of the forest area in conformity with the improvement of the livelihoods through community based forest resource management by undertaking rehabilitation of degraded forest, forest resource development, income generation and community development, and institutional capacity development, as well as by taking measurements of erosion control and sediment disaster mitigation: thereby, contributing to environmental conservation and harmonized socio-economic development.

Best Practices: The project developed 3 model sites and 4 additional sites for disaster prevention (landslide) for mountainous areas using Japan's 'erosion control technology: Chisan' with the support from experts from Japan. Further, the project shared the knowledge with other Himalayan states for implementation of the same.



Nagaland Forest Management Project

Date of Loan Agreement: March 31, 2017

Loan Amount: JPY 6,224 million

Executing Agency: Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Nagaland

Project Description: The project seeks to restore forest ecosystems and enhance livelihoods by rehabilitating Jhum (shifting cultivation) areas and providing sustainable income-generating support. It aims to promote environmental conservation and socio-economic development in selected villages of Nagaland state.

Best Practices: A key best practice is the active involvement of local communities in biodiversity conservation. By integrating traditional knowledge with participatory approaches, the project fosters ownership, resilience, and long-term sustainability of forest resources.



Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (Phase 2)

Date of Loan Agreement: March 31, 2017

Loan Amount: JPY 14,512 million

Executing Agency: Forest and Environment Department, Government of Odisha

Project Description: The objective of the project is to enhance the ecosystem along with sustainable livelihoods of local people by improving sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and community development, thereby contributing to harmonization between environmental conservation and socio-economic development in the project area in Odisha.

Best Practices: The project promoted sustainable livelihoods through 3,600 Women Self Help Groups and creation of a Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) for enhancing financial inclusion.



Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Management and Livelihoods Improvement Project

Date of Loan Agreement: March 29, 2018

Loan Amount: JPY 11,136 million

Executing Agency: Forest Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh

Project Description: The objective of the project is to manage and enhance forest area ecosystems in the project area, by sustainable forest ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, livelihoods improvement support and strengthening institutional capacity, thereby contributing to the environmental conservation and sustainable socio-economic development in the project area in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Best Practices: Sustainable livelihood activities promoted through cluster approach under the project has been very successful and is exemplary. Conservation and sustainable management of sacred groves in the state under the Japanese Satoyama initiatives have also created positive results.



Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management in Tripura

Date of Loan Agreement: October 29, 2018

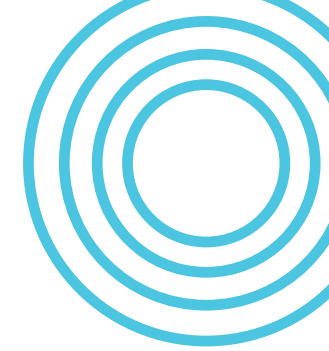
Loan Amount: JPY 12,287 million

Executing Agency: Tripura Forest Department (TFD)

Project Description: The project seeks to improve quality of forest in the upper catchment areas, where forest degradation and soil erosion are severe and livelihood improvement needs are higher. This is being done through sustainable forest management, soil and moisture conservation.

Best Practices: As a unique approach, the state government will co-finance some activities such as Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Centre of Excellence, Mini-Community Common Facility Centre (CCFC) and agroforestry, to sustain operations in the post-project period.





Project for Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya

Date of Loan Agreement: March 27, 2020

Loan Amount: JPY 10,397 million

Executing Agency: Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)

Project Description: The project seeks to restore and conserve natural resources within the villages by sustainable forest management, livelihood improvement and institutional strengthening, thereby contributing to conservation of environment, biodiversity and uplifting the socio-economic condition of people in the state of Meghalaya.

Best Practices: Key interventions include women-led nurseries for ecological restoration, agroforestry models for income security, and scientific Forest Management Plans for resource governance. Complementary initiatives such as water security, community infrastructure, and technology-enabled monitoring will create a mutually beneficial scenario for conservation and socio-economic development.



Project for Ecosystem Restoration in Gujarat

Date of Loan Agreement: March 27, 2020

Loan Amount: JPY 13,757 million

Executing Agency: Forest Department, Government of Gujarat

Project Description: The objectives of the Project are to restore ecosystems through coastal ecosystem management, inland ecosystem management, human-wildlife conflict management and institutional strengthening, thereby contributing to improvement of ecosystem services in Gujarat State.

Best Practices: The project includes three ecosystem management components (coastal ecosystem, inland ecosystem, and human-wildlife conflict management). They are mutually complementary and are aimed at holistic improvement of the ecosystems in the project areas.



Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response

Date of Loan Agreement: March 31, 2022

Loan Amount: JPY 10,535 million

Executing Agency: Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu

Project Description: Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) aims to mitigate and adapt to climate change and improve ecosystems by undertaking biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures, promoting supply chain development, livelihood improvement activities, and management capacity development, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development in Tamil Nadu.

Best Practices: The project brings renewed emphasis on ecosystem restoration & climate change adaptation; the use of technology and digital transformation in the forestry sector in Tamil Nadu along with enhancing the management capacities of the Forest Department and its allied institutions.



The Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal

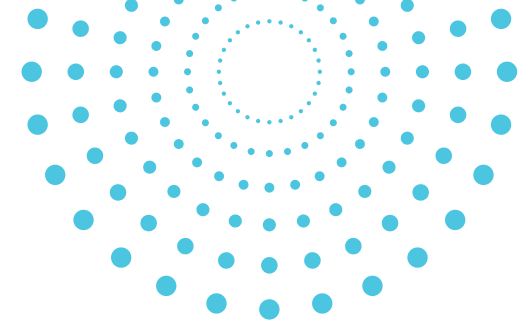
Date of Loan Agreement: March 29, 2023

Loan Amount: JPY 9,308 million

Executing Agency: Forest Department, Government of West Bengal

Project Description: The objective of the project is to mitigate and adapt to climate change, conserve and restore ecosystems by ecosystem-based climate change measures, biodiversity conservation and restoration, livelihood improvement activities and institutional strengthening, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development in West Bengal.

Best Practices: The project piloted advanced biodiversity conservation and restoration using Digital Transformation (DX) technologies. In 2023, it tested AI camera enabled elephant detection system with surveillance cameras as part of a pilot project to mitigate human-animal conflicts.



Project for Climate Change Response and Ecosystem Services Enhancement in Rajasthan

Date of Loan Agreement: February 20, 2024

Loan Amount: JPY 26,133 million

Executing Agency: Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan

Project Description: The objective of the project is to respond to climate change and enhance ecosystem services through afforestation, forest conservation, biodiversity conservation and eco-restoration, livelihood improvement activities and institutional strengthening, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development in Rajasthan.

Best Practices: The project promoted Digital Transformation (DX) initiatives and Japan-India academic collaboration. It also Implemented 'DigiVan', India's first 'Digital Forest Stack', a groundbreaking initiative by the Rajasthan Forest Department in collaboration with JICA and Boston Consulting Group, to use data and tech - smart sustainable forest management, enabling better planning, monitoring, conservation and collaboration for climate resilience, using satellite imagery and an open-source platform to create data-driven governance. Further, it pursued joint research activities between Japanese and Indian academic institutions to create new value in the forestry sector.



Punjab Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation Project

Date of Loan Agreement: March 27, 2025

Loan Amount: JPY 11,480 million

Executing Agency: Department of Forest and Wildlife Preservation, Government of Punjab

Project Description: The project seeks to enhance ecosystem services and mitigate impacts on climate change through increased trees outside forest, biodiversity conservation, integrated wetland management, livelihood improvement and institutional strengthening, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development in Punjab.

Best Practices: The project seeks to augment the incomes of the farmers and local communities by providing diversified livelihood opportunities through several interventions such as the 'Community Agroforestry Support Program' and 'Nature Awareness, Education and Eco-Tourism Models' and sustainable forest-based enterprise development. This is expected to create a mutually beneficial scenario for conservation and enhancement of local incomes.



Project for Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management

Date of Loan Agreement: March 27, 2025

Loan Amount: JPY 8,280 million

Executing Agency: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Project Description: The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of forest personnel for implementation of forest policies through research and development, implementation of pilot projects, improvement of training systems and institutional strengthening in the area of forest and biodiversity conservation and climate change, thereby contributing to sustainable development in India.

Best Practices: The project is conducting multiple research activities and pilot projects in collaboration with the leading Indian Research Institutes under MoEFCC, and also promoting knowledge sharing across states through training programs.



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