

Section 2 : Conservation and Management of Resources for Development

Chapter 11: Combating deforestation

Forest resources and forest lands should be sustainably managed to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual human needs of present and future generations.

A. Sustaining the multiple roles and functions of trees and forests.

To strengthen human and institutional resources for the effective formulation and implementation of plans, policies and research on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.

Activities

Governments should:

- strengthen administrative structures
- promote participation of the private sector, community and indigenous people
- review forest programmes and relate them to other land uses and development policies to protect against uncontrolled forest loss
- develop programmes for and research on the sustainable management of forests
- provide public education and awareness training.

B. Afforestation, reforestation and rehabilitation

Objective

To conserve and sustain forest resources.

Activities

Governments should:

- categorise forests into appropriate types
- implement sustainable management of forest ecosystems through improved planning and management
- establish and manage appropriate protected areas, buffer/transition zones
- rehabilitate degraded lands
- develop planted forests, including native species and urban forestry
- increase the protection of forests from pollutants, fire, pests and disease and other human interference

- improve opportunities for participation of all people in the development and implementation of forest related programmes.

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C. Utilising the full potential of forests

Objectives

To realize the full social, economic and ecological potential of forests through non damaging uses such as ecotourism and improved manufacturing of forest products.

Activities

Governments should:

- promote investment in forests
- formulate sound criteria for management and conservation
- improve forest use, development and management practices
- promote downstream processing of forest products to increase value, especially enterprises based on local entrepreneurship
- promote non-wood forest products
- promote sustainable ecotourism
- develop programmes for assessing the economic and non economic value of forests.

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D. Strengthening systems for planning, assessing and evaluating forests.

Objectives

To improve the information base and methods of planning for the effective conservation, management and sustainable development of forests.

Activities

Governments should:

- provide ongoing monitoring of qualitative and quantitative situation and changes of forest cover and resources
- establish impacts of activities affecting forestry development and conservation
- establish intersectoral and programme linkages to support a holistic approach to planning and management.