

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

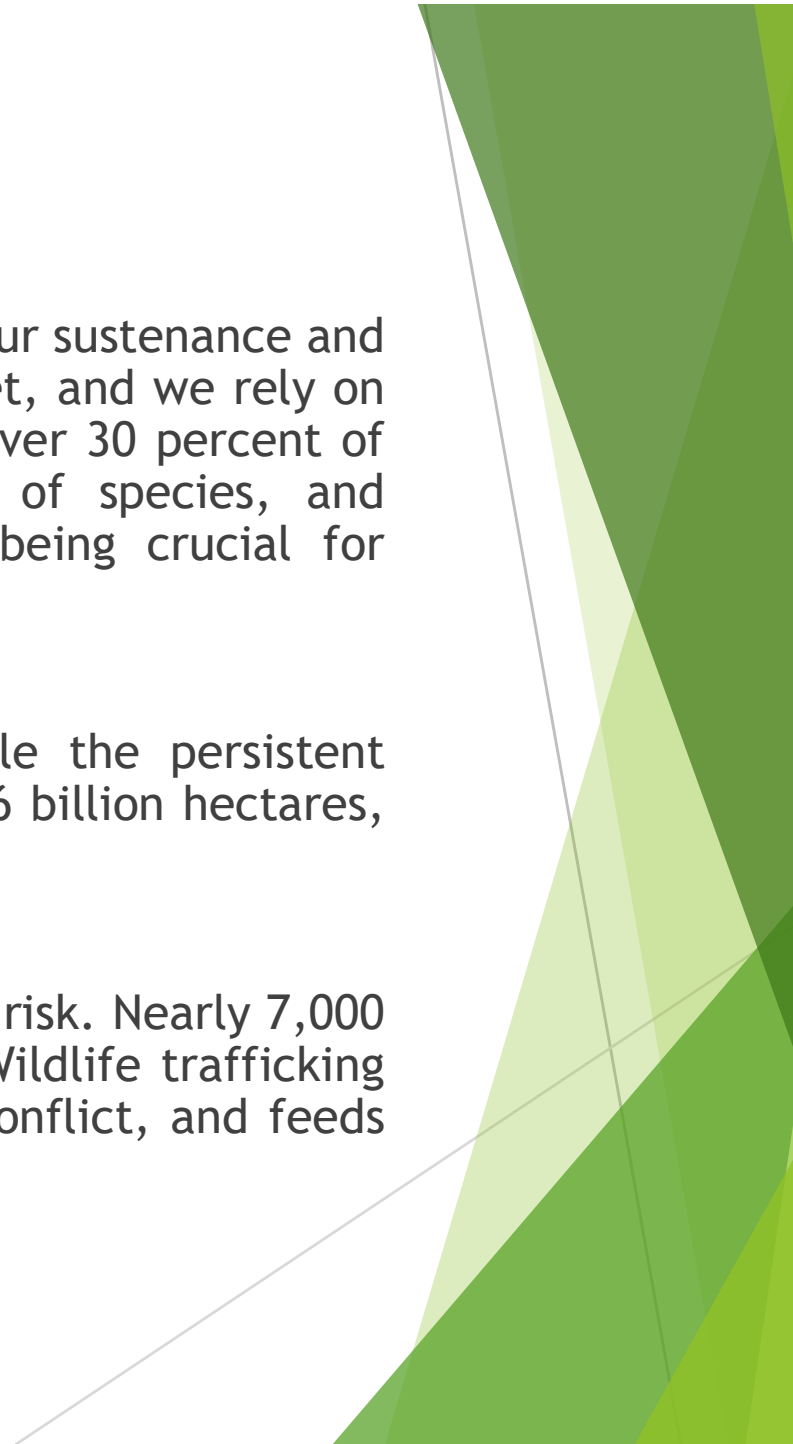


# INTRODUCTION

Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80 percent of the human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resources. Forests cover 30 percent of the Earth's surface, provide vital habitats for millions of species, and important sources for clean air and water, as well as being crucial for combating climate change.

Every year, 13 million hectares of forests are lost, while the persistent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares, disproportionately affecting poor communities.

While 15 percent of land is protected, biodiversity is still at risk. Nearly 7,000 species of animals and plants have been illegally traded. Wildlife trafficking not only erodes biodiversity, but creates insecurity, fuels conflict, and feeds corruption.



Life on Earth is crucially contingent on its land systems. While agriculture is the source for a large part of the human diet, forests provide habitat to most of the world's flora and fauna species.

Positive global trends on the protection of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity are discernible with a progressive reduction in forest loss, increasing protection of key biodiversity areas and augmented financial flow for biodiversity protection.

However, land degradation continues, biodiversity loss is rampant, invasive species are proliferating, and the illicit wildlife poaching and trafficking continue to undermine efforts to protect and restore vital ecosystems and species

Urgent action must be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity which are part of our common heritage and support global food and water security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and peace and security.



# ARGETS

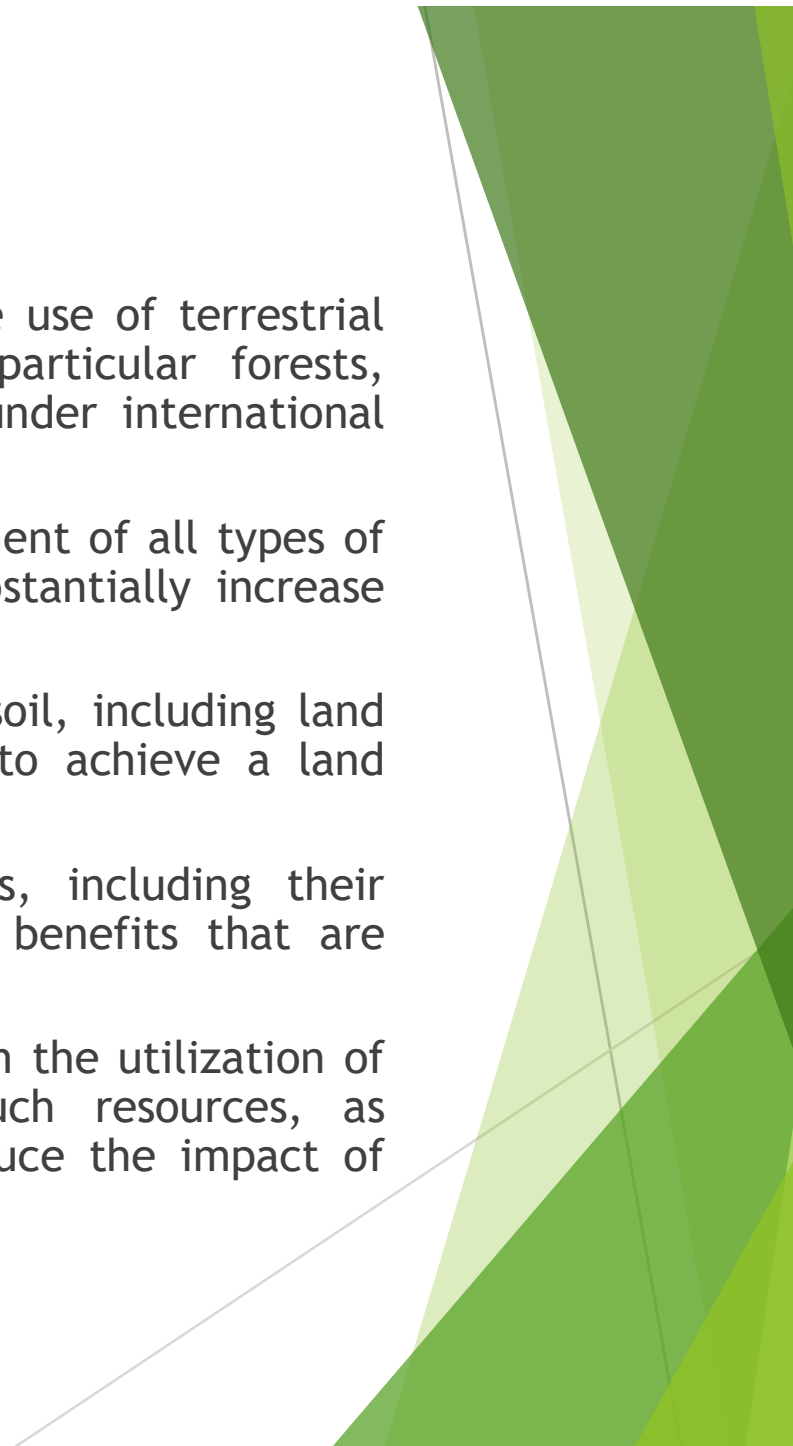
By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally (SFM)

By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed. End poaching and trafficking and reduce the impact of invasive alien species.



# THE INDIAN APPROACH

With 2.4 per cent of the world's land area, but a sixth of the global human population and approximately 8 per cent of all recorded species, India has made sustainable management of the terrain ecosystem a priority.

India's approach to forest management has been multi-stakeholder-oriented and participatory. With 275 million people living within forests, the country has adopted the Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach which proved to be productive both in terms of better protection and management of forest and improved livelihoods of forest-dependent people.

The National Afforestation Programme targets the development of forest resources with the involvement of people, with a focus on sustainability and improvement in livelihoods of the forest-fringe communities, especially the poor.

Some of the government initiatives to combat desertification are the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), and National Mission for Green India (GIM).



# LEGISLATIONS PASSED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE ON LAND.

. Indian Forest Act,1927	Consolidation of forests, regulation of transit, forest offences, penalty, powers to forest officers etc.
. Wild life (Protection) Act,1972	Protection of Wildlife, National Board for Wild Life, State Boards for Wild Life, Standing Committees, Protected Areas, Possession of wildlife articles, hunting, trade of wildlife, Schedules I to VI, Penal provisions, etc.
. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980	Regulates for diversion of forest land for non forestry purpose, powers with Central Government, Forest Advisory Committee
. Environment (Protection) Act 1986	Ecologically sensitive zones/ buffer area
. Biological Diversity Act,2002	Conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair equitable sharing of benefits arising out of use of biological resources, etc.

Forest Rights Act,  
2006

Recognition of forest rights to scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Wetland Conservation  
and Management  
Rules, 2010

Conservation and management of wetlands and as India is signatory to Ramsar Convention.



**Proposed Scheme/ Program during 12<sup>th</sup> FYP Plan**

**International Afforestation Programme**

**Green India Mission**

**Intensification of Forest Management**

**Integrated Development of Wildlife habitats**

**Project Elephant**

**ITCA**

**AMPA**





## OTHER INITIATIVES

Plantation under **National Agro-forestry Policy, 2014**

Plantation under National **Green Highways Mission**

**2015**

### **IGNREGA**

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (**PMKSY**)

Tree Planting under **Namami Gange**

Innovative Actions by State Govt. (Harit Haran Yojana

in Telangana, Shambhar Koti Lagwad Yojana in

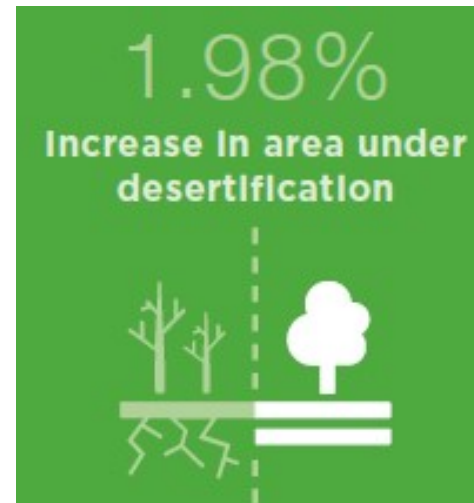
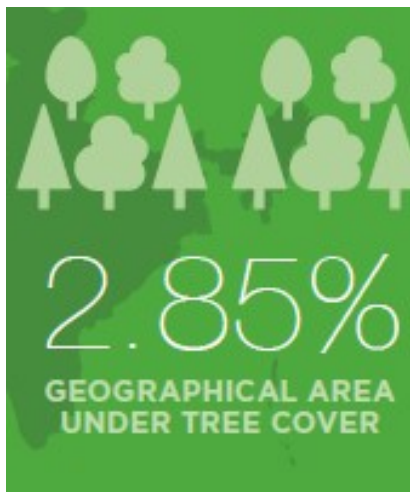
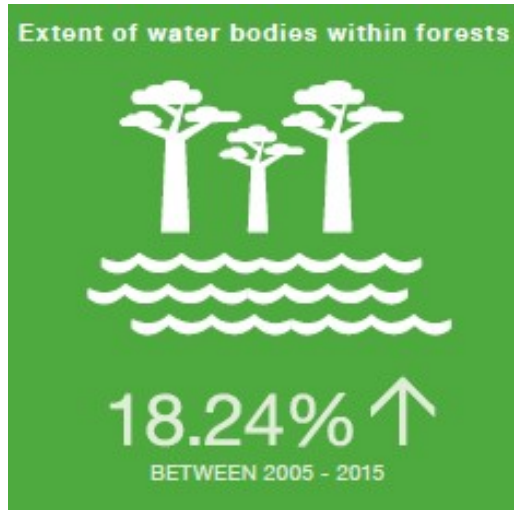
Maharashtra, Mission 5 Crore Tree plantation by UP)

**CSR**



# FACTS

21.54%  
land in India  
covered under  
forests



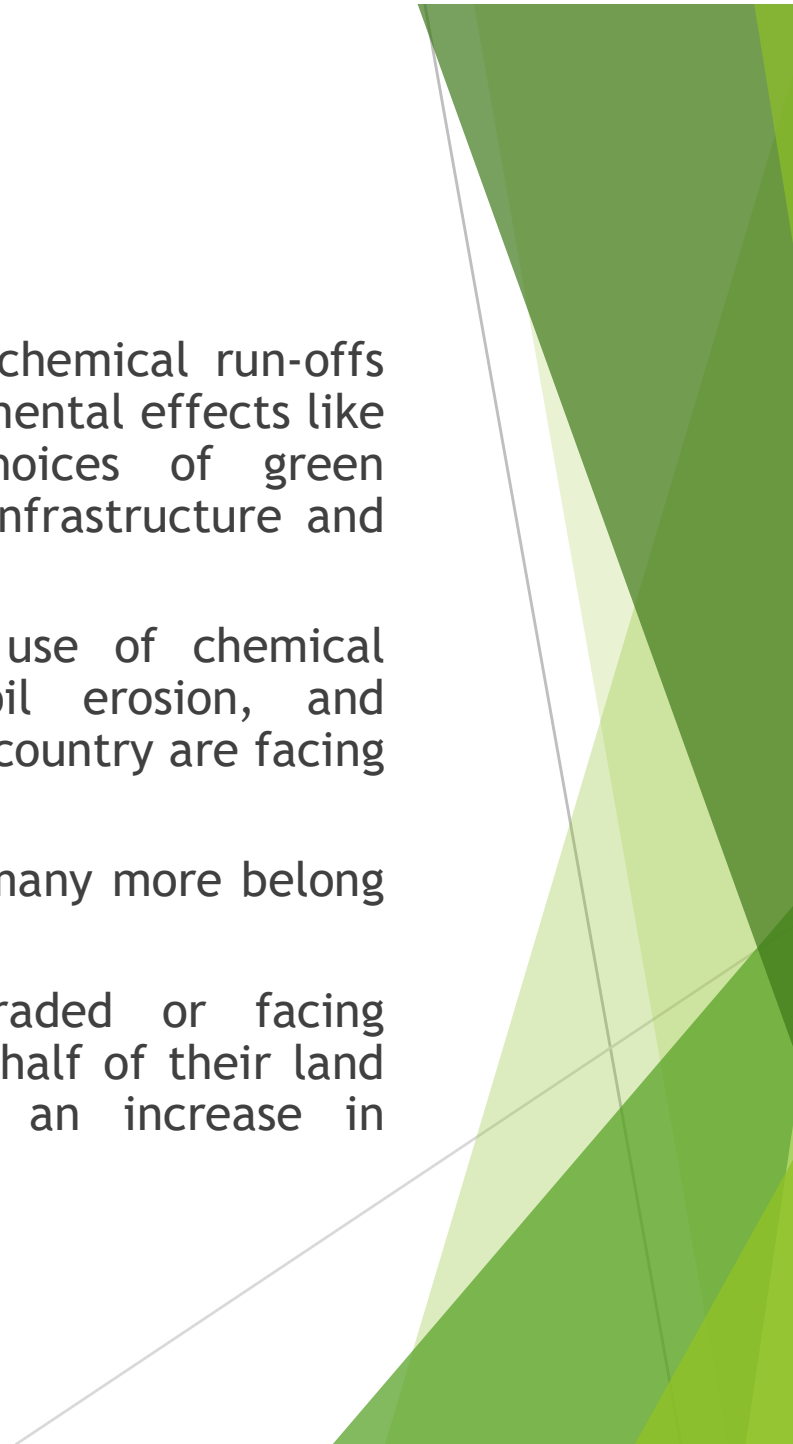
# CHALLENGES

Increasing industrialisation threatens ecosystems through chemical run-offs and use of such materials as plastics along with other detrimental effects like destruction or degradation of natural resources. Choices of green industrialisation come up with challenges of technology, infrastructure and need for more significant investments.

The pressures on agriculture tend to cause excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, declining soil fertility, soil erosion, and micronutrient deficiency. Furthermore, certain parts of the country are facing alarming rates of groundwater depletion.

57 of India's fauna species are critically endangered, and many more belong to the endangered and vulnerable categories.

Approximately 30 per cent of India's land is degraded or facing desertification. A few states are afflicted with more than half of their land under desertification. 90 per cent have experienced an increase in desertification over the past decade.



# CONCLUSION

- To strengthen the inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination
- Development of measurable indicators
- Transparent Monitoring and Reporting System
- Adequate means of implementation including financing, technology transfer and capacity building

