The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is implementing the GEF Seventh Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme in India (SGP-OP7). The project aims to build capacities of local communities to take collective action for conservation and sustainable development, thereby generating global environmental benefits.

**SNAPSHOT**

| GEF Trust Fund-USD 4,474,886 | National Executing Agency-Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| Co-financing-USD 8,600,000 | Implementing GEF Agency-United Nations Development Programme |

**Area of land restored** 10,000 hectares

**Area of landscapes under improved practices** 60,000 hectares

**Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity** 1,200 hectares

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions** 935,000 metric tons CO2e (lifetime direct) over the lifetime of the GHG mitigation projects; 100,000 metric tons CO2e (lifetime indirect)

**Direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as a co-benefit of GEF investment** 16,800 of whom 9,240 are female (55%) and 7,560 are male (45%)

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

**North East Region:**
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VISION
Generate multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and the well-being of local communities through participatory, integrated land and resource management approaches implemented across socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes.

MISSION
By providing financial and technical support to projects, the Seventh Operational Phase (OP7) of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India aims to enable communities and organizations in some of the most vulnerable and least developed areas of India. The project will take collective action through a participatory landscape planning and management approach aimed at enhancing socio-ecological resilience through innovative livelihood options, producing local and global environmental benefits.

THEMATIC AREAS
Biodiversity Conservation will promote the conservation & sustainable management of biodiversity and will promote equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of biological resources. Climate Change projects will contribute through adaptation and mitigation actions by removing the cultural, institutional, technical and economic barriers. It will strengthen the adaptation strategies among the communities to enhance the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities, develop and implement initiatives around mitigation, capacity building, preparedness and post-disaster recovery, promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, and the adoption of renewable energy. Projects will align with the principles of circular economy in support of the government’s reform agenda on circular economy, natural resource efficiency, and phasing out single use plastics for bringing sustainable lifestyle changes.

Land Degradation involves integrated land resource management with an emphasis on issues relating to desertification, deforestation, loss of soil fertility and enhanced livelihoods.

REGION STATE INTERVENTION LANDSCAPE DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Intervention Landscape District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North East region</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Darrang, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Nalbari, Udalguri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>Morigaon, Ukhrul, Imphal East, Imphal West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Coastal region</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central semi-arid region</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Barwani, Chhatarpur, Damoh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECT LANDSCAPES

ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

Biodiversity: The project will promote the conservation of globally significant biodiversity, sustainable use of resources and thus assist biodiversity-based livelihoods. Some of the indicative community projects will include:
- Agrobiodiversity conservation through preservation and promotion of indigenous seeds, plant species and livestock
- Protecting endemic, endangered and threatened species, and improving habitat integrity
- Conserving globally significant biodiversity and cultural resources
- Promoting and strengthening local community institutions and encouraging livelihood based eco-restoration activities
- Collaborative management of protected areas, and many others

Land Degradation: The project seeks to address soil erosion, damaged agricultural land, deforestation and desertification. Suggestive community projects will include:
- Improved provision of agroecosystem, forest and marine ecosystem goods and services (e.g., through reforestation, dissemination of knowledge on improved practices, etc.)
- Community managed natural regeneration of degraded land and coastal ecosystems
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in productive landscapes and within buffer zones of protected areas

Climate Change: The project would contribute towards reduction of GHG emissions, adoption of clean energy efficient solutions and thus promoting the use of renewable energy. Eligible community projects will include:
- Expanded application of renewable and clean energy solutions for productive uses
- Mitigation of GHG emissions, e.g., through energy efficient solutions introduced, adapted, piloted and disseminated
- Improving the energy efficiency
- Increased use of renewable energy, including alternatives to fuelwood and coal, and many more