

FOREST POLICIES AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN INDIA WITH HELP OF NGO'S

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Abstract:

Management of forests for the general well-being of the country. Maintenance of adequate forest cover for preservation of physical and climatic conditions and fulfilment of the needs of the people. Subject to these aims, the forest policy also laid down that-Permanent cultivation should come before forestry. Satisfaction of the local needs at non-competitive rates should override the consideration of revenue. After the fulfilment of the above conditions, realization of maximum revenue should be the guiding factor. The next major step towards forest conservation came with the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) in 1976. The Commission recommended that a change had to be brought about in the policy of the Government. It advocated a change from 'conservation-oriented' to a more dynamic programme of 'production forestry'.

Keywords:- Policy, NGOs, Forest

Introduction

Since time immemorial, forests have been considered as a vital resource for survival of all life on this planet. In olden days, man took shelter in such forests and used its various produces to survive. As we evolved, we created large cities and setup large industries to produce goods needed for our survival. But even in such a time, the need of forest did not go away. Instead of being the primary source for human survival, it now became the primary source for industries to produce such commodities, which were essential for human survival. There are also certain communities which continue to maintain this close and primary connection with the forest even till this date. Thus, protection of forests have and always will be a major principle that every living being has to abide by.

Forest Policy's

Background

- India's forests are currently governed by the **National Forest Policy, 1988**
- It has environmental balance and livelihood at its centre.
- **Salient Features and Goals:**
 - Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance.
 - Conservation of Natural Heritage (existing).
 - Checking Soil Erosion and Denudation in catchment areas of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.



- Checking extension of sand dunes in desert areas of Rajasthan and along coastal tracts.
- Substantially increasing Forest/Tree Cover through Afforestation and Social Forestry.
- Taking steps to meet requirements of fuel, wood, fodder, minor forest produces, soil and timber of Rural and Tribal Population.
- Increasing the productivity of Forests to meet National Needs.
- Encouraging efficient utilization of Forest Produce and Optimum Use of Wood (Timber).
- Generation of Work Opportunities, the involvement of Women.
- **Criticism:** It has not been updated in a long time while the situation of forests and climate has substantially changed.
 - Key policies regarding forests and forest management are either missing, delayed or left open-ended. For example, at present, there is no clear definition of forest that is accepted nationally and states are left to determine their definition of forests.
- **A draft National Forest Policy** was released in 2019. The basic thrust of the draft is **conservation, protection and management of forests along with safeguarding the interest of tribals and forest-dependent people.**
- **Other Legislations that Govern Indian Forests:**
 - Indian Forest Act 1927
 - Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016
 - Forest Conservation Act 1980
 - Forest Rights Act 2006
 - Wildlife Protection Act 1972

Forestry in India

- According to **India State of Forest Report, 2019**, tree and forest cover together made up **24.56% (8,07,276 sq km)** of India's area/
- In landmark **1996 Godavarman Case**, the Supreme Court **defined forests** as all areas that are forests in the dictionary meaning of the term irrespective of the nature of ownership and classification thereof.
 - The court also ordered all non-forest activity like sawmills and mining to be suspended in forest areas and stopped felling of trees in this order.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds are included in the **Concurrent List in the (Seventh Schedule)** of the Constitution of India.

- Through the **42nd Amendment Act**, 1976 Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were transferred from State to Concurrent List along with Education, Weights & Measures and Administration of Justice.
- **Article 51 A (g)** of the Constitution states that it shall be the **fundamental duty** of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
- **Article 48 A** in the **Directive Principles of State policy**, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

Issues and Challenges

- continuous funding for the implementation of various developmental projects. The Indian NGOs are finding it challenging to access donors as dealing with their funding conditions. Through the study, the author has also discussed the various challenges like - poor governance, absence of strategic planning, poor networking and communication mechanisms and political interference, etc. in the opinion of author NGOs can use their assets to generate additional income for sustainability (V. M. Deo, 2015).
- According to the authors, for the increasing role of non-governmental organizations could change the policy and strategies of NGOs. They involve the growth of planning, techniques, continuing advocacy human rights, and environmental concerns (K. Prabhakar, 2014).
- They have explained Non-Governmental Organizations are facing different types of problems which differ from organization to organization, region to region and from place to place. So, NGOs for more efficiency and improving the circumstance need more support from the politician, people, and government. (M Lone, 2016)
- The emergence of new policy directives from time to time as summarized in the preceding section also implies that JFM is not bereft of problems. There are a number of policy issues and challenges which affect either the sustainability of existing JFM programmes or decelerate the pace of their implementation. The inception of the JFM programme in India was a daunting task for the FD, NGOs and other stakeholders. The state governments issued their own JFM resolutions to set the guidelines for their implementation. However, it was not possible to visualize at the outset the range of problems that would be confronted in each situation and at the different stages of JFM implementation. In India, more than 0*,*** JFM Committees have been established. This figure, however, does not give a good impression of the success rate and, more importantly, the sustainability of these community-based organizations. These remain the major 'teething' problems for JFM programmes in India. The government has admitted that measures to sustain programmes beyond the project period have not yet been conceptualized (Government of India, **+ a). For example, out of the total -0, tree growers' cooperatives organized by the NTGCF/ FES during +322+330, only 13 per cent were actually functional, the rest being either non-functional or defunct

(NTGCF +330). So what are the factors that directly or indirectly hamper the progress and sustainability of JFM programmes? The following sections summarize important policy issues and challenges based on a review of the literature.

List of Non-Governmental Forest Organizations | Forestry

International Union for Conservation of Nature:

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUPN) and considered world's first global environmental organization. The organization publishes the IUCN Red List, compiling information from a network of conservation organizations to rate which species are most endangered. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization comprising more than 1,200 member organizations including 200+ government and 900+ non-government organizations. It has its headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. Conserving biodiversity is central to the mission of IUCN. It demonstrates how biodiversity is fundamental to addressing some of the world's greatest challenges- tackling climate change, achieving sustainable energy, improving human well-being and building a green economy. IUCN work is framed by a Global Programme, developed with and approved by IUCN member organizations every four years.

Current IUCN global programme runs from 2009 to 2012. It has five priority areas of work- biodiversity, climate change, sustainable energy, human well-being and green economy. It has six commissions viz. Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), Commission on Environmental Law (CEL), Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), Species Survival Commission (SSC) and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

World Wide Fund for Nature:

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) was conceived on 29 April 1961 under the name of World Wildlife Fund and its head office was opened on 11 September 1961 in Morges, Switzerland. Its establishment marked with the signing of the founding document called Morges Manifesto that lays out the formulation ideas of its establishment. WWF was established as an international fundraising organization to work in collaboration with existing conservation groups and bring substantial financial support to the conservation movement on a worldwide scale. In 1986, the organization changed its name to World Wide Fund for Nature, to better reflect the scope of its activities. For 50 years, WWF has been protecting the future of nature. The world's leading conservation organization, WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by 1.2 million members in the United States and close to 5 million globally. WWF's mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth. The Goals and Strategies of WWF include, by 2020, WWF will

conserve 15 of the world's most ecologically important regions by working in partnership with others to:

- i. Protect and restore species and their habitats.
- ii. Strengthen local communities' ability to conserve the natural resources they depend upon.
- iii. Transform markets and policies to reduce the impact of the production and consumption of commodities.
- iv. Ensure that the value of nature is reflected in decisions made by individuals, communities, governments and businesses.
- v. Mobilize hundreds of millions of people to support conservation

The International Institute for Sustainable Development:

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is a Canadian-based, public policy research institute that has a long history of conducting cutting-edge research into sustainable development. It was established in 1990 and has its head office in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The institute champions global sustainable development through innovation, research and relationships that span the entire world. It contributes to the international negotiations on the sustainable management of forests with targeted communications aimed at improving the transparency and clarity of the discussions in a variety of forum viz. UNFF, CSD, WCFSD.

World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development:

Following the Earth Summit in 1992, it was agreed that solutions to forest degradation are likely to be more political than technical. Accordingly, the Inter Action Council, a group of some 30 former heads of government and states, decided to establish an independent commission called World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development (WCFSD). IISD also hosts the Secretariat of World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development.

The objectives are:

- i. To increase awareness of the dual function of world forests in preserving natural environment and contributing to economic development.
- ii. To broaden the consensus on the data, science and policy aspects of forest conservation and management.
- iii. To build confidence between North and South on forest matters with emphasis on international cooperation.
- iv. To achieve policy reforms aimed at reconciling economic and environmental objectives for sustainable management of global forests.

World Resources Institute – Global Forest Watch:

World Resources Institute (WRI) was launched June 3, 1982 as a center for policy research and analysis addressed to global resource and environmental issues. It has its headquarters in Washington D.C. WRI works with governments, companies and civil society to build solutions to urgent environmental challenges. WRI's transformative ideas protect the earth and promote development because sustainability is essential for meeting human needs and fulfilling human aspirations in the future. Global Forest Watch is an initiative of the World Resources Institute. Global Forest Watch seeks to catalyze changes in forest use to meet human needs and better protect forest ecosystems.

Forest Stewardship Council:

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Established in 1993 as a response to concerns over global deforestation, FSC is a pioneer forum where the global consensus on responsible forest management convenes and through democratic process effects solutions to the pressures facing the world's forests and forest-dependent communities. FSC is locally represented in more than 50 countries around the world.

Conclusion

After the British left India, for the initial few years, the Government was somehow influenced by the myopic views taken during the British time, which becomes clear by reading the 1952 policy, which although provided for ecological balance, but was ineffective in achieving that goal. A major shift in the Indian government's outlook towards forests occurred after the late 1970s, when it was realized that forests were a national asset, and it was upon the Central government to undertake actions to protect and conserve them. This led to the amendment of the Constitution, bringing forest under the concurrent list. As a result, the 1988 Policy saw a major shift in government's approach towards forests, and the introduction of some major changes in the legislative framework, with regard to forests. This shift can also be attributed to the fact that after the 1970s, there was an increased International consciousness towards various aspects of forest conservation, and due to its international obligations, India had to bring about a significant change in its approach. Thus, the 1988 Policy became a milestone in the forest conservation and management structure of forests.

The current draft policy of 2018, while has been criticized by many, based upon certain lacking that it has, but it is important to mention here that the document is one which is aimed keeping in mind the present challenges being faced by the country (& the world as a whole) namely climate change, human-animal conflict etc. While the ultimate outcome of the Policy is yet to be seen, however, it is important to mention here that whatever may be the policy of the government, it cannot have any effect until and unless effective mechanisms are available to implement and enforce them. It needs to be realized how much ever excellent the

Policy/legislation may be, but until an effective machinery (with trained, able and committed individuals & organisations) exists to implement it, the same is merely 'words on a paper'.

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