

Report on Expert Group Meeting on Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts and risks to different forest types of South Asia organized on 22.10.2013 to 24.10.2013 by SAARC Forestry Centre, Bhutan and Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat

The Expert Group Meeting on Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts and Risks to Different forest types of South Asia was jointly organized on 22.10.2013 to 24.10.2013 by SAARC Forestry Centre, Bhutan and Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat. The aim of the expert group meeting was to discuss climate change related issues with special reference of forest types of south Asia.

The Expert Group Meeting was inaugurated by Sri A. K. Wahal, IFS, PCCF, Arunachal Pradesh. Dr. N. S. Bisht, Director, RFRI welcomed the delegates who came from different SAARC countries viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Besides this, all Head of Divisions from RFRI also attended this meeting as delegates.

In the first technical session, status papers on the forest types of the participating countries were presented by the experts, which were followed by the discussion on various queries raised by the delegates.

Day 2: A field visit was organized to Kaziranga National Park where Shri N. K. Vasu, Field Director explained the importance of flood plains ecology in maintaining the population of five mega herbivores of the region and impacts of climate change on their habitat over a period of time.

Day 3: Country wise presentations were made by the experts on impacts of climate change on forest types along with adaptations and mitigation measures to minimize these impacts. In addition to this, Dr Rajiv K. Garg, Advisor, Coal India Limited, Dr. Mohit Gera, Professor IGNFA, Dehradun and Dr. N. S. Bisht, Director RFRI, Jorhat presented papers on 'An Assessment of Climate Change Impacts & Risks to Different Forest Types Associated with Coal Mining in India', 'Likely Impacts of Climate Change on Forests of Western Himalayas & Adaptation Strategies', and 'Impacts of anthropogenic and Climatic factors on Forest Degradation & Goods & Services in Northeast India', respectively.

In the last technical session, the delegate were asked to prioritize i). 'Critical issues in connection with impact of Climate Change on forests in their country'; ii). 'Steps taken to counter climate change', and iii). 'Three steps to be taken in future'. These points were compiled in the form of recommendations and presented by Shri Udayan, Specialist (MED) SAARC Forestry Centre, Bhutan to fine tune them. Finally, the meeting ended with a valedictory speech by Dr. Sangay Wangchuk, Director, SAARC Forestry Centre, Bhutan and vote of thanks by Director, RFRI.











