

जयंती नटराजन  
Jayanthi Natarajan



सत्यमेव जयते

राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय  
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## FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to know that the Forest Survey of India is bringing out the India State of Forest Report 2011. Since the first report was published in 1987, this unique series of biennial forest assessments and the changes reported therein, are taken as authoritative source for gathering information on the status of India's forest resources.

Forests are a prized possession of the human race. With every passing year, decade and century of our existence, the importance of forests in our lives is being increasingly realised. Earlier, forests were seen as a vast resource of fuel, timber and fodder. Today, humankind the world over, recognizes that forests quite literally hold sway over its life breath. Forests are now considered as carbon sinks that remove vast quantity of carbon from the atmosphere. Every part of the plant ecosystem, the above and below ground biomass, the deadwood, the litter and even the soil, are veritable life reservoirs that take away carbon from the atmosphere and stow it away. It gives me great satisfaction to learn that for the first time, a comprehensive assessment of carbon stock in India's forests reported under the NATCOM-II, has been included in the India State of Forest Report 2011.

Another crucial component of the forest wealth assessed for the first time and presented in this reports is the bamboo resources of the country. For a long time, bamboo was treated as the poor man's timber, quite overlooking the vast array of uses it could be gainfully put to. Scientific assessment of the bamboo wealth in our country presented in this report will, hopefully, set the stage for its conservation and sustainable utilization thus generating good amount of income for our tribal and rural communities.

We are committed to safeguarding forest wealth in all its dimensions for the welfare of our people. The Green India Mission acknowledges the influence that the forest sector has on environmental amelioration through climate mitigation, food security, water security, biodiversity conservation and livelihood security of forest dependent communities. Monitoring framework for the mission envisages greater usage of remote sensing and GIS tools. We expect the FSI to take a lead role in Green Indian Mission in programme making and implementation as well as their monitoring by providing precise and accurate data/information needed for the same.

I extend my best wishes on the release of this report and hope it shall be found useful by all stakeholders involved in and committed to the conservation and development of our forest resources.

  
(Jayanthi Natarajan)