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Sustainable Forest Management and Human Development

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Sustainable forest management (SFM), a priori, entails a focus on enhancing the synergy between nature conservation, forestry, climate change mitigation and economic development. This indeed is one of the key green pathways for sustainable human development.

The SFM strategy needs to revolve around two main pillars namely: facilitation of market transformation toward low emission economy; and capacity development for climate resilient economy and eco-systems

The programmatic interventions within the ambit of these two pillars should include both upstream and downstream interventions. The upstream policy level work and institutional development should primarily focus on creating synergies between forests and relevant environmental and land management policies; development and adoption of eco-friendly technologies especially for the industrial, agriculture and urban development; and capacity development. The downstream interventions should include development and pilot testing of models and methodologies at the field level to identify evidence-based solutions for up-scaling, up-scoping and replicating. Some of the more specific project related features should aim at: promoting protected areas system in forest and marine biodiversity; ensuring integrated and sustainable forest management with major thrust on bio-diversity and climate change mitigation; instituting energy efficiency initiatives and eco-friendly technologies (building, industry, transport, agriculture); and sharing knowledge, best practices and local community level success stories.

It should be simultaneously recognized that the equitable and sustainable future for humanity, the universally agreed goal, unequivocally requires the espousal of a 'people-centered, inclusive, gender and rights based' approaches as an integral part of the development paradigm. It envisages an inextricable nexus and connect within the troika of economic, social and environmental dimensions.