

Recommendation 2: Introduce Stronger Forest Management Systems

As rights and responsibilities over forest management are gradually transferred to communities which have gained sufficient capacities, it is important to introduce better forest management, monitoring, and control systems.

Recommendations

1. Stronger systems are needed to map forest areas and community forest boundaries. New systems are also needed to monitor how a forest is changing in response to ongoing pressures from people, fire, insects, disease, and changes in land use.

2. A well-structured computerized database is essential to compile inventory, production, market, socio-economic, and financial data. At present, most Forest Departments are generally unable to provide accurate estimates of the age class and structure of forests, nor of their growth and yield.

3. Better financial and economic analyses are needed at the state level to help guide sector strategies and investment decisions in forest management.

4. Changes in livelihoods from forest-based activities must also be monitored. Ongoing Bank-funded work in Jharkhand by the Centre for International Forest Research (CIFOR) is developing simple monitoring tools and methods that could easily be replicated elsewhere in India.

5. A new national R&D strategic plan oriented toward further transitioning to community forestry should be considered.

