



**Department of Forests, Environment & Climate change,  
Government of Jharkhand.  
Van bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.**

---

**Assessment of carbon-neutrality for forest related activities/Operation in Jharkhand**

**Context;**

While the Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index- 2019 India ranked 5th out of 181 countries, in a separate assessment by IIT Mandi and Guwahati, **Jharkhand is most vulnerable state of country**. The sustainable development peremptorily asks for carbon neutrality. At Glasgow, nearly two-thirds of countries pledged for net-zero guided by the threshold temperature limit (1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels) of the Paris Agreement. In the run-up to Net Zero by 2070, forest will play a significant role on reducing carbon intensity of Indian economy. To tackle the emissions, India has committed to creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> eq by 2030. Jharkhand with about 30% forest cover aspires to lead the efforts to achieve carbon neutrality. About two-third of global terrestrial carbon is contained in forest, forest soil. India State of Forest Report 2021 suggest Jharkhand has the potential to sequester 184.81 million tonnes.

Forest authority undertakes various exercise such as patrolling, control fire to manage waste biomass, engage with different vendors on regular interval which may have significant carbon footprint. As a nodal agency, the Department of Forest, Environment and climate change, Jharkhand monitors various entities for their emission compliances, it is an opportunity for the forest department itself to initiate and assess its own efforts toward carbon neutrality. This shall help forest department to understand our own carbon foot print and subsequently to develop a roadmap to be carbon neutral or negative. The whole effort is essential for informed policy development and implementation and could be role model for other departments to follow.

The Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Jharkhand is deeply involved and committed to providing its services concerning contemporary issues on the environment, forests, climate and other ecosystem services in the state. Assessment of carbon-neutrality for forest would be a visionary step. The Department of Forest, Environment and climate change, Jharkhand has made pioneering contribution to different challenges to sustainability. It is high time to develop a roadmap and future planning towards

carbon-neutrality in the ongoing activities of the Department of Forest, Environment and climate change, Jharkhand.

**Hence, it is important to take following initiatives;**

- Development of GHG inventories which will enable the forest department to identify their sources for action oriented interventions.
- GHG inventory will help forest department to strategies and prioritize actions to reduce emissions, as well as to provide benchmarks again which the sources of these activities can be measured.
- 
- The initiative by Forest department will set the example for other department to follow towards the carbon neutrality and will ultimately may lead towards more systematic change for desired change

In the light of the above facts, you all are requested to share your valuable inputs to develop a carbon neutrality approach for all the activities or operation of forest department.

Reference:

1. India State of Forests Report (ISFR) 2021
2. India State of Forests Report (ISFR) 2017
3. Climate vulnerability assessment for Adaptation Planning in India using a Common framework, 2019-2020