



Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project (UFRMP)

Newsletter

Issue - 1

Message from Chief Project Director

On behalf of UFRMP, I am delighted to share the first newsletter. The primary purpose of the newsletter is to periodically share the progress and achievements of the project. This, the first newsletter, details the purpose, objective and structure of the Project.

The duration of this Project is for 8 years (up to March, 2022) and project components include forestry works and livelihood interventions. It is noteworthy that for the first time in the history of Japan International Cooperation Agency assisted forestry projects in the country, there is a component on sediment disaster mitigation under UFRMP. Under this component, the project would address landslides and reconstruction of damaged forest roads in disaster affected areas.

I am happy to inform you that this Project has embarked on a scientific approach and modern technology to address the causal factors of forest degradation in the state. The scientific and modern technology is being carefully selected and dovetailed with the rich traditional and cultural practices of the state.

At the same time, technology based analysis are shared with the communities – through the Van Panchayats – in order to draw upon the traditional knowledge of communities regarding management of forests and for land use planning in the Van Panchayat areas. The success of this ambitious Project, to be implemented in 750 Van Panchayats, is critically dependent upon the active participation of the communities. UFRMP will co-invest with the communities to enhance their capacities to sustainably manage the forests, and to increase resilience of the poor households in the target Van Panchayats through improved livelihoods.

Anup Malik, IFS



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Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project (UFRMP)

The mountain state of Uttarakhand is located in the north-western Himalayan region of India. With forests covering nearly 65% of its geographical area, Uttarakhand is endowed with floral & faunal bio-diversity. The forests of Uttarakhand perform critical eco-system services for the plains of the country. In fact, a large number of rivers that are source of drinking water and irrigation for the northern plains of the country have their origins in Uttarakhand – including the Ganga and Yamuna. Additionally, forests also provide critical livelihood support to the local communities, a vast majority of whom are directly or indirectly dependent upon the forests.

However, over the years, forests of the state have experienced ecological and human induced changes which have had impacts upon the health of the forests. It is in this context, considering the status of forest resources in the state and their contribution to the ecology and economy, that the Government of Uttarakhand conceptualized a project for addressing forest degradation, and through the Government of India, approached the Government of Japan.

After detailed deliberations and technical and financial due diligence, the Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project (UFRMP) was approved in April 2014. It has been financially supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) of the Government of Japan and by the Government of Uttarakhand. The Project will address the factors that cause forest degradation in the forest fringe areas of the State. The Project would be implemented by Van Panchayats (VPs) which are community-based organizations in forestry sector, ensuring their capacity development in the process.

The natural catastrophic disaster in Uttarakhand in June 2013 led to massive slope failures (sediment disaster) and damage to public infrastructure in the state. The Project importantly includes a special component on disaster management. Under this component the Project would deploy international best practices for stabilization of landslides and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure in disaster affected forest areas. The component would provide replicable models and enhanced technical capacities within the state.

Project Components

UFRMP has four components aimed towards addressing factors of degradation of forest resource in the state while supporting the livelihood of forest dependent communities. These are:

Eco- Restoration

- Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest – 37500 ha
- NTFP Plantation -500 ha
- Bio-diversity Conservation and Wildlife Management
- Other Eco-restoration Activities

Livelihood Improvement and Community Development

- Community Mobilization and Microplanning
- Entry Point Activities (EPA)/ Basic Human Needs (BHN) Improvement
- NTFP enterprise development & livelihood
- Community Based Eco-tourism
- Non-NTFP Based Livelihood Improvement

Other Support Activities

- Preparatory Works
- Capacity Building of Executing Agencies
- Capacity Building of Village Level Institutions
- Applied Research and Publicity
- Monitoring & Evaluation

Erosion Control and Sediment Disaster Mitigation

- Slope Stabilization & River Training
- Construction of Emergency Shelters
- Distribution of Emergency Kits
- Overseas Training on Disaster



PROJECT AREA & IMPLEMENTATION

As per the approved plan, UFRMP will be implemented across 13 forest divisions of the State. The divisions have been selected based on the criteria of forest degradation and proportion of poor households in the division.

A total of 750 Van Panchayats will be selected across the 13 forest divisions. The selection of Van Panchayats to carry these activities will be done in four phases, following objective parameters and methodological approach related to forest degradation, cluster approach and socio - economic criteria in the target intervention areas. The first batch and second batch of Van Panchayats have already been selected. Third and fourth batch will consist of 250 and 100 Van Panchayats respectively and will be selected in subsequent years.

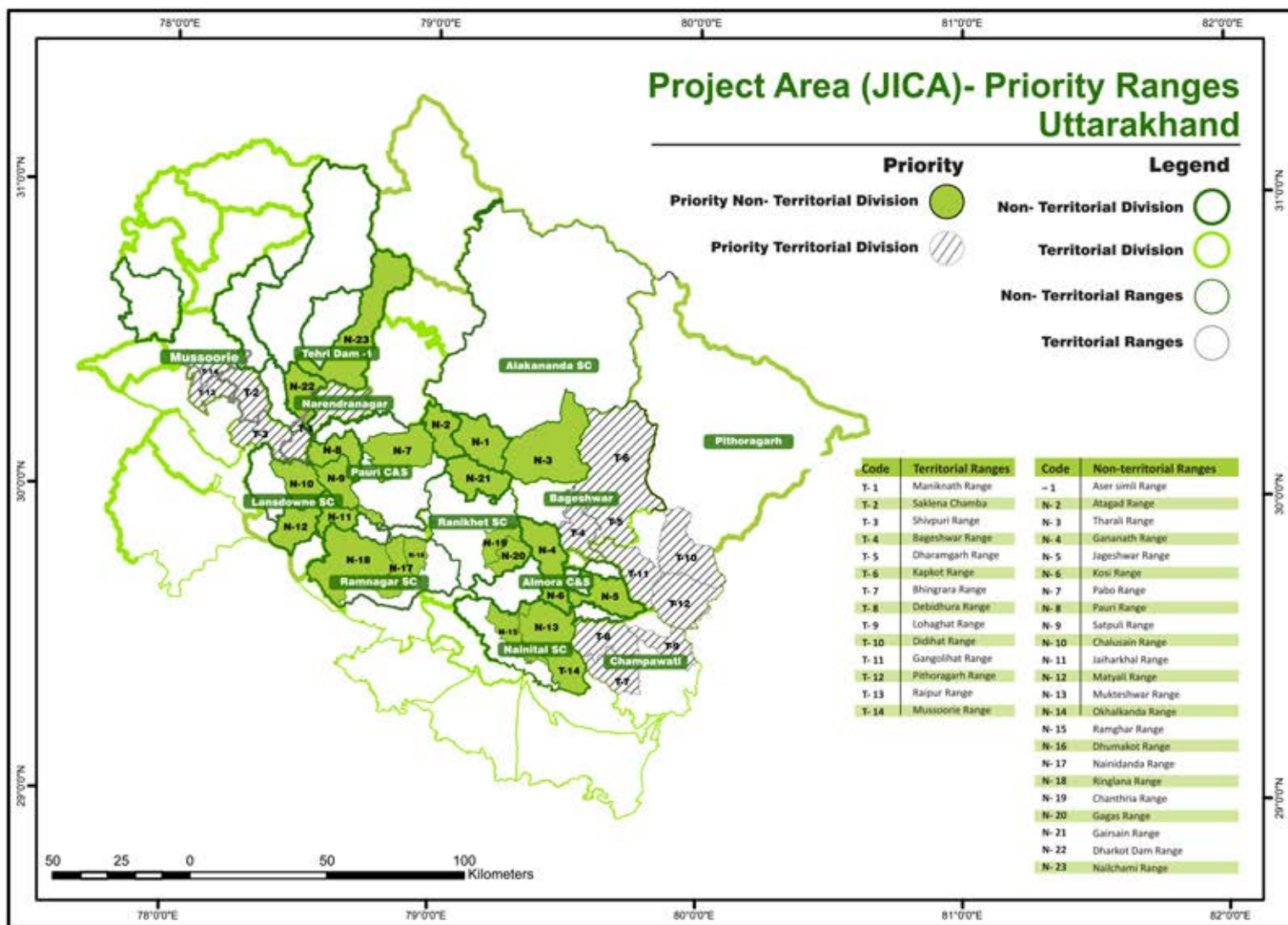
Criteria for selection of Van Panchayat

- The VP must be located in the priority ranges of the project
- The VP should have an elected body
- The VP should have given consent to participate in the project
- There should not be any similar on-going intervention
- VPs qualifying as per above criteria are to be further evaluated for their past performance, extent of forest degradation in the vicinity, possibility of cluster formation, target group population (socially/economically weaker sections such as BPL, ST and SC population)



Division-wise number of VPs selected in 1st & 2nd Batch

Division	1 st Batch	2 nd Batch	Total
Alaknanda	9	—	9
Almora	10	23	33
Bageshwar	15	32	47
Champawat	8	23	31
Lansdowne	12	28	40
Mussoorie	8	—	8
Nainital	8	15	23
Narendranagar	13	13	26
Pauri	16	27	43
Pithoragarh	15	29	44
Ramnagar	7	28	35
Ranikhet	12	19	31
Tehri Dam 1	14	14	28
Total	147	251	398



YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEWSLETTER



This is your newsletter. We request and encourage you to share your experiences under the Project. You can highlight activities and achievements of the Van panchayat. You can also consider submitting/sharing inspiring stories of individuals who are doing good works which needs to be shared with other people in the state. This will provide recognition to individuals and provide opportunities for other people to learn from the experiences. You can share your experiences with representative of the Field NGO in your Van Panchayat.

You can also write to us at

 ufrmp@nrmc.co

or send your hand written document by post to attention of

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