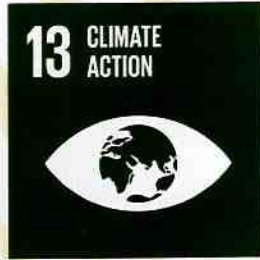


অসম চৰকাৰ



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM



**CONCLAVE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR  
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE:  
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (GOAL-12)  
CLIMATE ACTION (GOAL-13)  
CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES (GOAL-14)  
LIFE ON LAND (GOAL-15)**

**14<sup>TH</sup> & 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017**

**ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE, GUWAHATI**

***Organised by***  
**Environment & Forest Department**  
**Government of Assam**

***In collaboration with***  
**Transformation and Development Department**  
**Government of Assam**  
**&**  
**Centre for Sustainable Development Goals**  
**Assam Administrative Staff College**  
**Guwahati**



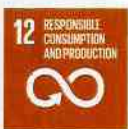
## Assam's Endeavors in Achieving the SDGs

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** were universally adopted in January 2016 as a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 Goals which are to be achieved by 2030, were designed based on the learnings from Millennium Development Goals, through a global consultative process, to include many more new areas of focus such as Climate Change, Sustainable Consumption, Peace and Justice, and Innovation among many other key areas. The SDGs are based on the principle of forging partnerships and setting clear guidelines to achieving these targets as per the needs of each region

The **Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi**, in his speech addressing the United Nations on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the UN Sustainable Development Summit stated, 'Today, much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals.'<sup>1</sup> Government of Assam, mirroring this commitment, under the leadership of **Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** strived to take forward the SDGs in Assam. Under the guidelines structured in the vision document called, '**Assam 2030: Our Dream, Our Commitment**', a strategy was created to start the process of inducting SDGs into the policy planning processes of the Government of Assam. It is one of the first states in India and globally to start bringing SDGs into the policy discourse of the state.

To take forward these goals in Assam the **Centre for Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs)** was established by Government of Assam in the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati. The CSDGs as an institution, is a think-tank which provides research and technical support to all departments in the Government of Assam, to take forward their SDG targets. The Transformation & Development Department (T&D) is the nodal department for coordinating all the activities within departments for achieving the SDGs. An SDG Cell has also been established in the T&D Dept. to provide support to take forward SDG related activities.

## Overview of Goals 12, 13, 14 and 15



**Goal 12** on Sustainable Consumption and Production focuses on creating a national strategy for sustainable consumption and production. It focuses on reducing waste, better management of natural resources, promoting sustainable practices, ensuring proper disposal of hazardous and chemical waste, build awareness and rationalize fossil fuel subsidies which promote wasteful practices.



**Goal 13** is on Climate Action, which stresses on taking urgent action towards combating climate change and its impacts. This goal highlights the need to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries<sup>2</sup>. It focuses on the need to build capacity on climate change related planning and management, mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning systems.



**Goal 14** on Life Below Water focuses on protecting all marine life and reducing pollution. It aims to regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices. It also focuses on developing capacities and knowledge for protecting all biodiversity under the water. It also highlights critical areas like acidification of water bodies.



**Goal 15** on Life on Land stresses on conservation, protecting and restoring all forms of life on land. It highlights the need for sustainably managing forests, protecting all ecosystems (mountains, wetlands, forests, drylands), reduce the degradation of natural habitat, end poaching and trafficking of all protected species and raise resources for sustainable management, conservation and restoration.

<sup>1</sup>Government of Assam (2016): Assam 2030, Our Dream, Our Commitment: Vision and Strategic Architecture Document, July 12th, 2016. Extract from message from the Chief Minister.

<sup>2</sup>For all SDG Goals kindly refer to <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

## Contextualizing Goals 12, 13, 14 and 15 in Assam

Most countries in the world are experiencing the first-hand the drastic effects of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, and are now more than 50 percent higher than their 1990 level. The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere have reached 409 ppmv by the end of May, 2017, and the world is just 41 ppmv away from the cut off limit of 450 ppmv. The current emissions are 355.9 GtCO<sub>2</sub> per annum. Further, global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not act now. India has committed to reduce emission intensity of GDP by 33-35% by 2030, to achieve 40% cumulative installed capacity through renewable sources of energy by 2030 and to achieve additional carbon sinks of 2.5-3 GtCO<sub>2</sub> by 2030. The State of Assam needs to make the right strategy to achieve these goals too. The State desires to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, and has already formulated its State Action Plan for Climate Change. The stake-holding departments of the Government need to need put the right strategy and take steps in the right direction to achieve the INDCs (Intended nationally determined Contributions) for climate change mitigation.

The floral and faunal biodiversity of Assam is immense and so are the challenges in their protection and conservation. Assam is the most populous state of the North-East India and has the highest density of populations. Its 37% of the geographical area is under green cover. Therefore, balancing the pressures of development and conservation is an onerous task. The mighty river Brahmaputra that flows through Assam and annually inundates thousands of villages and erodes large chunks of land remains another insurmountable challenge in the State. Keeping in mind all constraints, The State Government needs to make strategy for increasing its carbon sinks. Assam holds 3.9% of the total forest cover of India, and may, therefore, bear the onus of about 4% of the carbon sinks declared by India. This amounts to 120 MtCO<sub>2</sub> sinks to be created, translating to planting annually more than 5 cr saplings till 2030.

## Conclave Design

The Conclave on Sustainable Development Goals for Climate Action, Life under Water & Life on Land is proposed to finalize the draft Strategy Paper & Action Plan (SPAP) for Goal – 13 to 15 of SDGs. The Conclave shall also have a special group on SDG-12. This Conclave is being organized by Environment and Forest Department, Government of Assam in collaboration with Transformation and Development Department and Centre for SDGs, Government of Assam.

The two-day event will be held at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati. The design for the two-days is as follows:

**Day 1 (14th July 2017):** The first day will focus on group wise thematic discussions among the 9 thematic groups. Based on the discussions which happen in these groups the key discussion points will be presented in the valedictory session.

**Day 2 (15th July 2017):** The group chairpersons, panel experts and resource persons, and rapporteurs shall meet on the 15th July, 2017 to discuss and finalize the Forest SPAP, and the actionable strategies on the approved Assam Govt. SAPCC.

**The purpose of this conclave is:**

- ❖ The Department of Environment & Forests will seek advice, suggestions and recommendations on the draft SPAP
- ❖ Engage experts from the state and the region to get inputs on the SPAPs
- ❖ In all 9 Groups, have been constituted to address the issues under SDG-13,14 & 15, and SDG-12.
  - While Group 1 to 4 shall concentrate on SDG-13,
  - Group 5 will focus on SDG 12
  - Groups 4, 6 to 9 shall address on SPAP of Forest dept. as well as SDG-14 & 15 (See below)



### Parallel Themes for Groups 1 to 5 for Goal 13 & 12

Group No.	Theme	Departments
1	Low carbon growth and making Assam carbon neutral by 2030	(a) Lead Deptt: Forest (b) Participants: Agriculture, Power, Industry, Transport, Soil Conservation, PCBA, ASTEC, S&T
2	Making Assam Pollution Free	(a) Lead Deptt: PCBA (b) Participants: Transport, Industry, UDD, GDD, S&T, ASTEC, Forest
3	Climate change adaptation and building climate resilient communities	(a) Lead Deptt: Agriculture (b) Participants: Fishery, Veterinary & AH, Soil Conservation, Water Resources, Sericulture, Forest, P&RD
4	Assam Fund for Life: Its objectives and management	(a) Lead Deptt: Forest (b) Participants: All invited departments & stakeholders
5	Reduce, Reuse & Recycle – managing waste reduction in production & supply chain	(a) Lead Deptt: Fisheries (Dr. Ramen Barman) (b) Participants: Food & Civil Supplies, Cooperation, Agriculture, Fishery, Industry, UDD, GDD, Power, Forest

### Parallel Themes for Groups 6 to 9 for Goal 14 & 15

Group No.	Theme	Departments
6	Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and carbon sequestration/sink strategies	(a) Lead Deptt: Forest (b) Participants: Revenue & DM, Soil Conservation, Sericulture
7	Biodiversity conservation, preventing biodiversity loss and wildlife conservation	(a) Lead Deptt: Forest (b) Participants: Agriculture, Fisheries, Veterinary & AH, Sericulture
8	Land management, soil & water conservation and development	(a) Lead Deptt: Soil Conservation (Dr. R.M. Dubey IFS (Retd)) (b) Participants: Revenue & DM, Soil conservation, Forest, Agriculture, Fishery, Sericulture, WRD, P&RD
9	Water and river conservation & management	(a) Lead Deptt: Water Resources (WRD) (b) Participants: Soil Conservation, Forest, Fishery, Revenue & DM

#### All Groups to ensure that:

(a) Relevant quantitative indicators appropriate to their topics (with available data for monitoring) are adopted. The indicators should have baselines and 2030 as well as 3-yr and 7-year intermediate targets. Where actions are being suggested, these should have timelines by which such actions are targeted for adoption.

(b) Credible strategies to achieve the targets are developed with planning for financial and human resources (and include efficiency improvements and cost sharing through partnerships) to economize on public resources.

For any queries and feedback, please write: [csdgs.assam@gmail.com](mailto:csdgs.assam@gmail.com)

