



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

iFOREST

INTERNATIONAL
FORUM
FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABILITY
& TECHNOLOGY

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We are pleased to bring you our annual report for the year 2022-23. As we have completed four years of our establishment in October 2022, we sincerely appreciate the support we have received from various quarters to build the institution.

2022-23 has been a year of institutional growth and deepening our engagement with various stakeholders at the international, national and sub-national levels. During the year, the iFOREST team, which has tripled in size over the past three years, took up ambitious projects and delivered impactful outputs.

As an institution, we have built on our commitment to engage at the state, district, and municipality levels, which are the actual implementation grounds of our national ambitions. Such engagement has spanned all our initiatives - from just transition, renewable energy, urban transition and forest management to municipal and plastic waste management. In addition, our research in almost all projects is evidence-based, built upon on-ground assessment and the generation of primary data that can guide informed decision-making and practical action.

For example, our report *Unlocking DMF Funds to Enable Clean Energy for Social Infrastructure and Livelihood in Rural Jharkhand (2022)* is based on need-assessment surveys conducted in five mining districts – Chatra, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, and West Singhbhum in Jharkhand. Similarly, our report *“Angul: Planning a Just Energy Transition and a New Green Economy”* deep dives into one of India’s biggest coal-producing and industrial districts to understand the energy transition challenges and opportunities.

iFOREST continues to be at the forefront of Just Transition in India. We have made significant leaps in research and building discourse on JT nationally and internationally. During the year, we hosted the “Global Just Transition Dialogue”, the first of its kind in the country. It brought together key stakeholders from international, national, and sub-national levels to discuss policy, planning, and implementation of just transition projects.

In March 2023, we also released two key studies – *Just Transition Framework for India: Policies, Plans and Institutional Mechanisms* and *Just Transition Costs and Cost Factors: A Decomposition Study*. These publications were well-received by the policymakers.

Our fruitful engagements at the state level resulted in significant impacts on clean energy. *Odisha Renewable Energy Policy, 2022*, was notified in December 2022 with a clear ambition and objective of ushering in a just energy transition in the state. In the state budget 2023-24, funding has been allocated for building transmission capacity for RE installation and for setting up an RE research institute in the state.

In waste management, iFOREST partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Norwegian Embassy to develop a strategic framework to reduce marine plastic pollution. We also worked with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to develop the compliance assurance framework for the bans on single-use plastics.

Capacity building has been an important area of intervention for iFOREST. We collaborated with GIZ to conduct a series of online training programmes on air pollution. These programmes were designed to enhance the capacity of policymakers and decision-makers involved in developing and implementing clean air action plans.

Our engagement at the state level has deepened in Odisha and Maharashtra. In Odisha, iFOREST has signed an MOU with GRIDCO Limited and Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) to provide research and capacity support to enhance renewables' share in the overall energy mix. In Maharashtra, we are engaging with the Department of Environment and the Department of Energy on just transition.

Besides our national work, the team has also engaged at various international platforms, enriching the environmental and climate discourse from a global South perspective.

We are extremely pleased that our work has received the support of policymakers at the national and state levels, is appreciated by industry and think tanks and is considered valuable by various civil society organisations and individuals. As we continue our journey this year and in the years ahead, such responses and support remain most valuable for us. We also thank our partners for their support and trust in us.

We know the journey ahead for all of us to create a better future will require firm resolve. However, we are highly optimistic about achieving this through our collective engagement.



Raghunath Anant Mashelkar

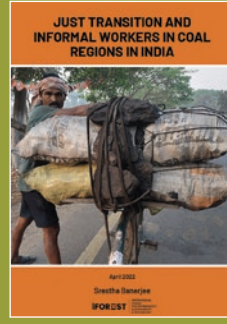
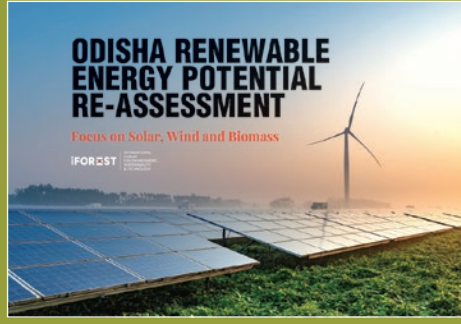
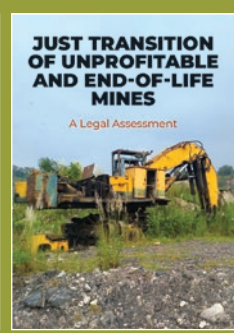
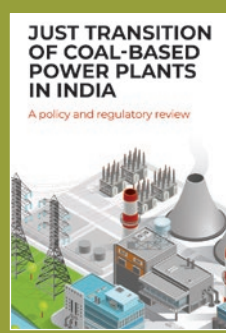
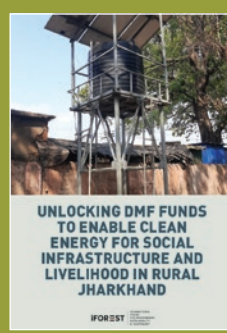
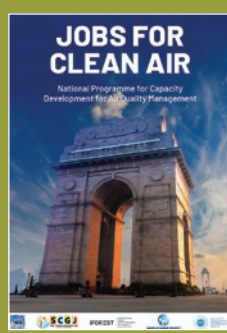
Chairperson



Chandra Bhushan

CEO & President

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



ABOUT US

The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) is an independent non-profit research and innovation organisation which was established in 2019 to identify, promote and scale-up solutions for pressing environment-development challenges in India and other developing countries in Asia and Africa. Our work is guided by a commitment to sustainability and equity, ensuring that our solutions are socially just and environmentally responsible.

iFOREST's work is rooted in regional priorities to accelerate environmental actions at the sub-national level and to improve national policies and plans to support it. At our core, we are a regional organisation with a national focus and an international reach. Our mission is to address the unique needs of regions by leveraging our resources and expertise to scale up national action and make a global impact. We use our regional knowledge to inform national policy and plans and strengthen international collaboration.

To achieve our goals, we conduct independent evidence-based research, develop new knowledge and innovative solutions, convene stakeholders to increase awareness and build consensus, and partner with think tanks, civil society, government agencies, philanthropies and industry to scale up solutions.

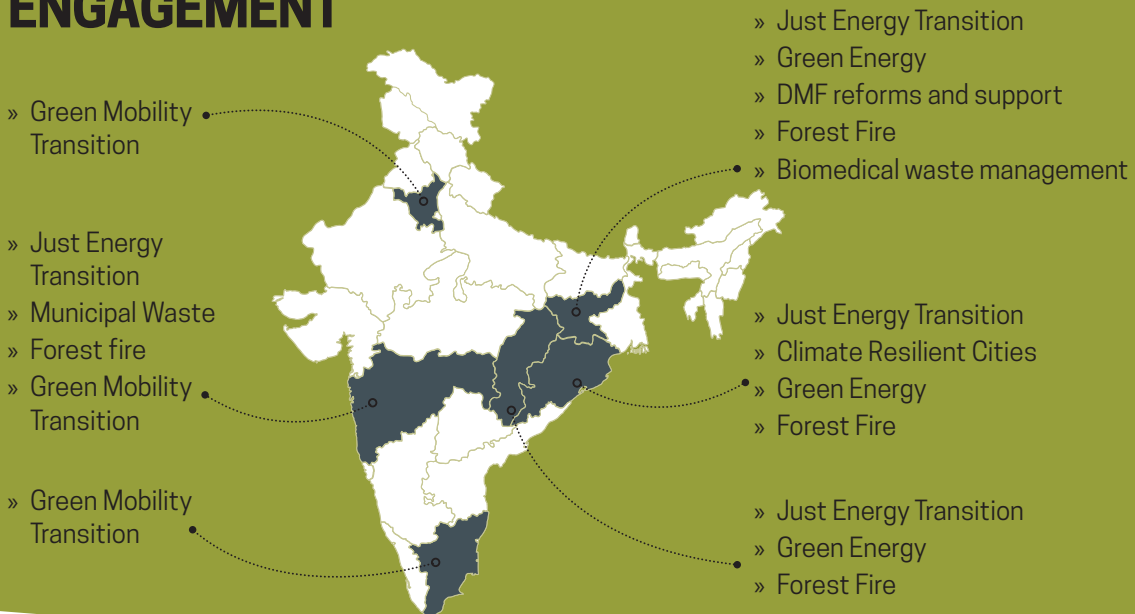
MISSION

We are working for a sustainable future by generating and disseminating knowledge and by developing, supporting and mainstreaming policies, strategies, technologies and solutions that are environmentally sound, economically prudent and socially just.

OUR APPROACH



CURRENT REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Economy is Environment and Environment is Economy.

If we embrace the above proverb, then addressing environmental challenges necessitates transitioning the current economy to a green economy. But this transition will not be possible or sustainable if it happens at the expense of job loss, social instability and increased poverty. Therefore, a just transition, which takes into account the social, economic, and environmental implications of the green transformation, is essential to garner the support of all stakeholders and establish a robust green economy. At iFOREST, our primary objective is to facilitate this just transition. All our programmes are geared towards building a green economy in India and the global South through an approach that holistically integrates environmental sustainability and social justice into economic development.

Our programmes



Just Transition

- » Just Energy Transition
- » Industrial Decarbonisation



Green Energy

- » Green Energy in 'Non-RE' states
- » DRE for livelihoods



Urban Transition

- » Climate Resilient Cities
- » Green Mobility Transition



Natural Resource Management

- » Forest Fire
- » Climate-resilient Agriculture



Waste & Pollution

- » Clean Air Action Plan
- » Municipal Waste & Methane
- » Single-Use Plastic & EPR Management



Strengthening Environmental Governance

- » Climate Law & Institutions
- » International Climate Governance
- » Domestic Environmental Governance & Institutions

PROGRAMMES



Over 2022-23, the strategic plan for the Clean Energy Programme of iFOREST evolved to focus on the 'low-RE' states of India, particularly on the eastern-region states. While India has the fourth-highest installed renewable energy (RE) capacity in the world, its distribution is highly uneven. The installed capacity has largely been developed in six states in the southern and western regions, which account for over 80 per cent of India's total installed capacity.

Given the serious concerns pertaining to lack of green growth in the 'low-RE' states, among other concerns of grid investments and losses, it is prudent to develop RE capacity in a more regionally balanced fashion. Such an undertaking requires dedicated research and sustained engagement with lagging states/regions. The Clean Energy Programme has thus adopted an approach to support the growth of RE capacity in the eastern states, through state-, regional- and national-level initiatives.

In 2022-23, the programme engaged with two states – Jharkhand and Odisha, as well as initiated high-level engagement across the eastern region.

In **Jharkhand**, the team undertook a detailed study regarding the application of distributed renewable energy (DRE) to enhance public infrastructure and livelihoods for rural communities, through utilization of district-level public funds available with the mining districts under District Mineral Foundation (DMF). Unlocking DMF Funds to Enable Clean Energy for Social Infrastructure and Livelihood in Rural Jharkhand (2022) report included needs assessment in five mining districts – Chatra, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, and West Singhbhum – based on extensive surveys and consultations with beneficiaries of existing DRE.

The study found significant continued gaps in rural electrification and power supply, which is critically impacting public service delivery, in the case of Anganwadi Centres, health centers and schools. These gaps can be plugged by solarisation financed by DMF funds, and the study identified sustainable implementation models for its roll-out through DMF.

The report was released in September 2022 at a round-table meeting in Ranchi, which brought together district government representatives and sector practitioners. The event featured opening addresses by Deputy Collector, Hazaribagh and Chief Operating Officer, Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society. In addition to the report release, the team individually met with district collectors and DMF representatives of all five focus district as well as with the Chief Secretary of the state to discuss pathways to implement solutions explored in the study.



“India stands at an important juncture of renewable energy growth, where explicit efforts towards building regional equality becomes very crucial. This is not just important from the technical perspective of optimizing grid investments and losses, but also for ensuring green growth in the eastern region states.”

- Mandvi Singh
Programme Director - Energy
and Climate Change



DRE-DMF Report Release and Discussion in Ranchi.



DRE-DMF Report being presented to Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh.

A visible impact of the engagement was that the Department of Mines and Geology, Jharkhand called for explicit inclusion of ‘decentralized solar and other renewable energy sources’ in the other priority sector for DMF spending in the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) guidelines, as their submitted amendment requests for DMF reforms.

Meanwhile in **Odisha**, the Clean Energy Programme initiated an engagement to build an ecosystem for enabling RE growth and investments. Odisha plays a crucial role in meeting India’s electricity requirement. It is the second-largest producer of raw coal (accounting for 21.5% of the national production) and fourth largest consumer of coal in country (with 21 GW of installed coal-based capacity in utility and captive sectors). A key challenge and opportunity facing the state is to diversify its energy mix by expanding the share of renewable energy (RE) in order to ensure energy security under the changing energy sector dynamics. So far, the progress had been minimal due to policy inertia as well as limited ambition and capacity.

During the year, iFOREST made two major contributions – submission of detailed inputs for drafting of the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy 2022, and the re-assessment of RE potential in the state. The objective was to support the Odisha government in designing the new RE promotion.

In order to kick start engagement with policymakers and industry stakeholders in Odisha, iFOREST also organised ‘Renewable Energy in Odisha - A Policy Dialogue’ in Bhubaneswar in August 2022. The event

focused on identifying priority areas for the state's new RE policy which was being drafted at the time. The multi-stakeholder conference featured over 160 representatives from industry, government and civil society and paved the way for future collaborations between iFOREST and the Energy Department, Government of Odisha.

In addition to support extended for developing an ambitious RE policy, the team conducted a study, Odisha Renewable Energy Potential Re-Assessment (2023), which focused on RE generation capacity from solar, wind and biomass sources in the state. In the solar segment, Odisha was found to have a potential of over 150 GW (including ground mounted, rooftop and floating projects) given favourable solar radiation levels and high levels of wasteland utilisation. Overall, the study found that the state has substantially higher potential capacity than has previously been assessed by the MNRE.

The fruitful engagements at the state-level culminated in some major impacts. Odisha Renewable Energy Policy, 2022 was notified in December 2022 with a clear ambition and objective of ushering in a just energy transition in the state. In the state budget 2023-24, funding has been allocated for building transmission capacity for RE installation and for setting up an RE research institute in the state.

Significantly, the state nodal agencies for RE implementation - GRIDCO Limited and Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA), signed an memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with iFOREST in



Renewable Energy in Odisha - A Policy Dialogue.



Release of Odisha Renewable Energy Potential Re-Assessment report in Bhubaneswar.

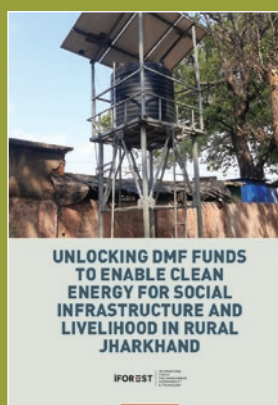
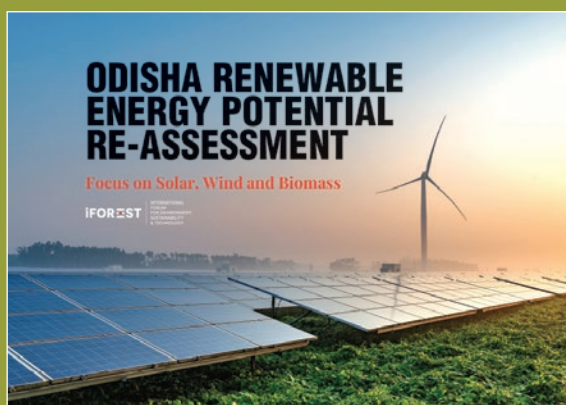


MoU signing between GRIDCO, OREDA and iFOREST.

December 2022 to seek knowledge and capacity support for enhancing the share of RE in the energy mix. In March 2023, a detailed three-year work plan was signed clearly identifying the areas of intervention under the MoU.

Through this MoU, iFOREST is engaged in multiple streams of work in the state. A dedicated team has been set up at GRIDCO to provide comprehensive support for OREP, 2022 implementation and investment promotion. With OREDA, the focus of the initial engagement is on capacity building and institutional reform of the institution.

In addition to the state-level engagement, the programme also initiated the sustained collaboration with other governments in the Eastern Region. Using Odisha as an anchor, the team aims to build a forum for knowledge sharing and collective action for states in the region. This is in-line with iFOREST's commitment to enabling efficiency and energy security across India -- driving national change via state-level policy engagement.



JUST TRANSITION



Building on the momentum gained in previous years, iFOREST made significant leaps in research and building discourse on Just Transition, both nationally and internationally.

In August 2022, iFOREST released its report **“Angul: Planning a Just Energy Transition and a New Green Economy”** which deep dived in evaluating how a district in one of India’s most climate-vulnerable states (Odisha), where coal economy is growing rapidly at present, can plan a just energy transition in the next four decades, while balancing energy needs and economic growth. The report outlined a long-term just energy transition plan for the district which can aid a strategic phase-down of coal mining and coal-based power production, greening the economy, creating jobs, and improving the district’s environmental conditions.

The research was widely acknowledged by the Government of Odisha, worker’s leaders, the industry players and civil society organisations alike. Most of these were also present at the release of the report.

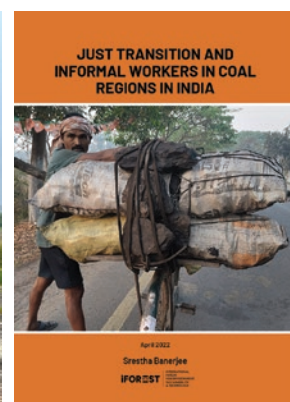
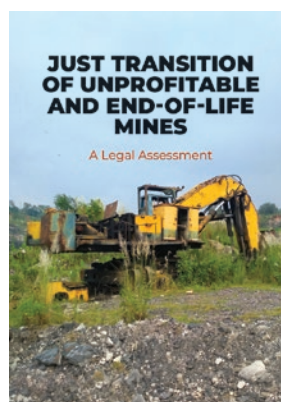
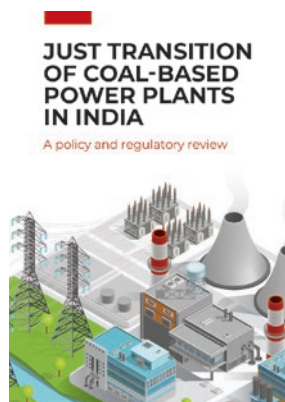
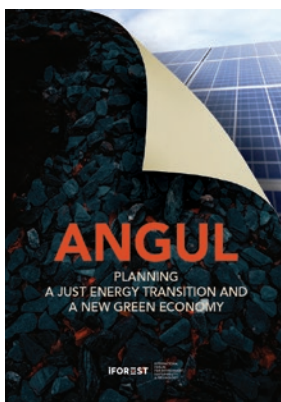
Our district studies also led us to some of the most crucial questions which needed to be answered with regard to the regulatory readiness of the country to ensure a Just Transition. To address these, we looked closely at the adequacy of the current legislations around the transition of old and unprofitable coal mines and decommissioning of thermal power plants (TPPs). The research encompassed laws concerning closure, dismantling (with regard to TPPs), post-closure land ownership and obligations, repurposing of land, and mitigating impacts on labour and local communities at large.

In October, we published two key studies – **Just transition of Coal-based Power Plants in India: A Policy and Regulatory Review** and **Just Transition of Unprofitable and End-of-Life Mines: A Legal Assessment** – assessing the regulatory readiness and put forth recommendations for amendments and requirements as necessary. The research was well-received by the Ministry of Coal, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), PSUs engaged in coal mining and TPP operations and legal experts.



JT is an integrated agenda to support energy transition, boost green growth in fossil fuel dependent regions and create jobs and stem macro economic risks arising from the geo-political order. Our work is focused on furthering these opportunities through multi-stakeholder engagement.

- Srestha Banerjee
Director - Just Transition





Overall, our deep engagement at the national and international levels also prompted us to develop broad-based and overarching policy frameworks that can support just transition at the national and state levels in the coming decades. For India to meet its net zero target by 2070 and energy independence goal by 2047, a framework of Just Transition at the national and state levels is essential. Equally essential is to understand the factors which need to be accounted for while financing a Just Transition. In March 2023, iFOREST released two key publications to guide national policy framework and strategic pathways and identify cost factors for various components of transition. These first-of-its-kind studies – **Just Transition Framework for India: Policies, Plans and Institutional Mechanisms** and **Just Transition Costs and Cost Factors: A Decomposition Study** – were released at iFOREST’s flagship event “Global Just Transition Dialogue”. The research was well-received by the Central government, various State government representatives from fossil-fuel states, PSUs, and the international community from the Global South and North.

In terms of building discourse, there are two key events which positioned iFOREST and its work on Just Transition nationally and internationally. The iFOREST side-event – **Just Transition of Informal Workers and Informal Economy** – at the COP 27 at Sharm El- Sheikh, Egypt, brought the challenges and considerations of informal workers and the informal economy. The event brought together experts from the Global South to draw closely from their experiences.

The **Global Just Transition Dialogue** was initiated as iFOREST’s flagship annual event in March 2023. The event was the first in the country to bring together global, national, state and district level voices and expertise to a common platform to discuss policy, state planning and action, learnings from the international experiences and financing a Just Transition.



Experts from the Global Just Transition Dialogue.

POLLUTION & WASTE MANAGEMENT



Plastic waste management, especially single-use plastics (SUPs) was the major focus of our work in 2022-23. In 2022-23, the Government of India, banned certain SUPs to curb plastic pollution. To support this ban, the team developed a national level compliance assurance methodology to help the regulatory authorities in accessing the compliance with the notified ban. The methodology was finalised after ground testing it in 20 cities across the country, with diversity in terms of location, population, waste generation quantity and waste management practices. As part of the methodology, we have also analysed the availability of different SUPs in the market and the alternatives available.

The other major intervention done by iFOREST was in the field of bio-medical waste (BMW) management. This work was carried in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The core area of the work was to establish and strengthen the disposal mechanism of BMW from small health care facilities. iFOREST in collaboration with WHO has set-up 2 pilot demonstration projects in small health care facilities to demonstrate the effective mechanism of BMW disposal from these facilities.

iFOREST also partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Norwegian Embassy to develop strategies to reduce marine plastic pollution from land-based sources and to access the availability of data on marine litter in the country.

The team has continued its engagement with the citizen groups through its ground level work in SUPs and BMW management.

A compliance assurance framework is essential for a successful ban on single-use plastics. We are supporting CPCB in developing and implementing the assurance framework.

- Rahul Kumar

Programme Lead, Waste Management & Capacity Development



CAPACITY BUILDING



Our organization focuses on empowering various stakeholders through enhanced understanding and sensitivity towards the issues and people they interact with. We aim to improve informed engagement within their areas and scopes of work by building capacities. In the past year, we expanded our 'Learning Centre' portal, introducing new training programs for diverse groups, including Biomedical Waste Management (BMW) and initiatives like "Train for Clean Air". We also continued our collaboration with environmental regulators. In total, we conducted nine training programs and three workshops for officials of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards. This also included specialized training for senior and mid-level officials from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. Over 250 senior and mid-level officials from Central and State PCBs and Pollution Control Committees were trained.



The Train for Clean Air initiative, a collaboration between iFOREST and GIZ, involved a series of online training programs. These aimed to boost the capacity of policymakers and decision-makers in developing and implementing clean air action plans and advocating for air quality improvement.

Under Train for Clean Air, we held eight online training sessions covering four modules, with over 300 participants. These included senior officials and managers from Urban Local Bodies, particularly from non-attainment cities, NGO and development organizations, CPCB, SPCBs, regional transport offices, smart city development corporations, traffic police, journalists, health professionals, urban planners, city officials, architects, and MCD officials.

Additionally, we developed a comprehensive training manual for frontline waste handlers and nursing staff at healthcare facilities. This manual focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of bio-medical waste management and disposal in healthcare facilities.



Induction Training Programme for officials of CPCB.

ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH



iFOREST at International Forums

COP27: Just Transition Pavilion

iFOREST organized a side event, in partnership with the International Labour Organization, on Just Transition at the 27th COP at Sharm Al-Sheikh on the 18th of November 2022.

The event included a presentation by iFOREST on **Just Transition of Informal Workers and Informal Economy**. This was followed by a moderated panel discussion that saw representation from major fossil fuel economies, particularly from the global south. The participants in the event were the South Africa Presidential Climate Commission, Indonesia Research Institute for Decarbonization and the Transnational Centre for Just Transitions in Energy, Climate and Sustainability (TRAJECTS).



Experts from the Global South and International Labour Organisation discuss a just transition of informal workers and the economy at iFOREST's Pavilion at COP 27.

Global Just Transition Dialogue

iFOREST organized the first 'Global Just Transition Dialogue' as part of the T20, an official Engagement Group of the G20. The G20 had underscored the importance of developing pathways for clean energy, and just, affordable, and inclusive energy transition and it was against this backdrop that iFOREST hosted the Dialogue.

The two-day event saw national and international stakeholders deliberating on policy and financial aspects of a Just Energy Transition in the global South. It brought together policymakers, officials from the national ministries and concerned state government departments in India, members of government bodies/commissions from global South countries (South Africa and Indonesia), policy experts from India and the global South (South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam), industry leaders, and key financial institutions to deliberate on clean energy transition, green growth and inclusive and equitable development agenda. The panel discussions were on the International Experience on Just Energy Transition; Policy Framework for



Release of iFOREST's reports on national framework and cost and cost factors for a just transition by the Chief Guest Amitabh Kant, G20, Sherpa and other dignitaries.

Just Transition, Green Economy and Inclusive Growth; State Action for Green Energy, Green Jobs and Just Transition; Financing a Just Energy Transition

During the meeting, iFOREST also released its reports on 'Just Transition Framework for India' and 'Just Transition Cost and Cost Factors'.

Other International Engagements

Chandra Bhushan, President & CEO, speaking on the need to define just transition to suit the realities of the Global South countries, at the Just Transition Donor Collaborative by Climate Justice at COP 27.



Srestha Banerjee, Director, Just Transition, as speaker for a session skilling and education of workforce for an inclusive transition at The World Bank's event "Mobilising Finance and Know-How for a People-Centric Just Transition" at COP 27.

Supporting Policy Development and Implementation

Angul: Planning a Just Energy Transition and a New Green Economy

The study on Angul, Odisha's largest coal mining and industrial district, was undertaken to evaluate how Odisha can strategically plan for a just energy transition (for Angul) and simultaneously build a green economy in the coming decades. iFOREST released this report on the 24th of August 2022 in the district in the presence of various government officials and civil society members.

During the meeting, iFOREST presented its findings from the report. It also launched the India Just Transition Centre website and data portal. The website and portal endeavour to add to the just transition discourse in India through knowledge generation and by fostering peer learning and exchange of best practices for inclusive climate change action.

Panel discussions on Green Industries and Sustainable Investments, Angul Vision: People's Perspective for a Just Transition and Inclusive Development and Policies for Just Transition and Climate Change Action in Odisha were also held during the meeting.



Release of study on Angul, Odisha's biggest coal mining and industrial district, by the Deputy Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly, the District Collector, and community leaders and representatives.



Experts from civil society and state administration discuss a just transition roadmap for Angul.

High-level meeting with the Government of Chhattisgarh on planning a Just Transition for the district of Korba

May 5, 2022 | Raipur, Chhattisgarh

A high-level meeting was convened by the Chhattisgarh State Planning Commission wherein iFOREST was invited to share the findings of its report on Korba: Planning a Just Transition for India's Biggest Coal and Power District" in the presence of the Minister of Transport, Housing and Environment, Forest, Law, and the Minister of Food, Planning and Culture.



Chhattisgarh Minister of Transport, Housing and Environment, Forest, Law, and the Minister of Food, Planning and Culture at a high-level meeting and presentation on iFOREST's report "Korba: Planning a Just Transition for India's Biggest Coal and Power District".

High-level government meeting on Just Transition in Angul

November 3, 2022 | Bhubaneswar, Odisha

iFOREST was invited by The Chief Secretary of Odisha to present the findings of its report titled, Angul: Planning a Just Energy Transition and a New Green Economy. Present in the meeting were other high-level state officials, which included the Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Development Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary of Energy, Additional Chief Secretary of Forest and Environment and the Additional Secretary of Energy.

iFOREST's President & CEO, Chandra Bhushan presents on Just Transition and to the Chief Secretary of Odisha state and secretaries of Department of Energy, Industries Department and Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department among others at a high-level meeting.



Webinars

Forest Fires, Climate Change and Tendu Patta: Evidence to improve policy outcomes

IFOREST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

WEBINAR

Forest Fires, Climate Change and Tendu Patta
Evidence to improve policy outcomes

JUNE 2, 2022 | 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

						
P.S. Roy Former Director, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (ISRO)	Pyush Dogra Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank	Anish Andheria President, Wildlife Conservation Trust	Dilip Gode Executive Director, Vidarbha Nature Conservation Society	Sanjay Upadhyay Advocate, Supreme Court	Chandra Bhushan President and CEO, iFOREST	Pranay Lal Senior Technical Advisor, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

iFOREST held a webinar titled, Forest Fires, Climate Change and Tendu Patta: Evidence to improve policy outcomes on June 2, 2022. The webinar was organized against the backdrop of the increasing incidences of forest fires in the country, and their adverse impact on the forests, especially biodiversity loss and carbon emissions. It particularly sought to address the information and understanding gap with respect to the causes of forest fires by highlighting the issue of tendu-linked forest fires.

During the webinar, iFOREST shared findings from its research on forest fires and tendu patta collection practices. It also released its state-level factsheets, for the states of Maharashtra, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, on the environmental impact of tendu-linked forest fires. This was followed by a panel discussion among a varied group of experts that explored important questions around the issue of forest fires and their environmental impact.

iFOREST organised two webinars to release its reports – Just Transition of Coal-Based Power Plants in India: A Policy and Regulatory Review and Just Transition of Unprofitable and End of Life Mines: A Legal Assessment on the 12th and 20th of October 2022 respectively.

Webinar on Regulatory Assessment for a Just Transition of Coal-Based-Power Plants in India

October 2022

The webinar on the Just Transition of coal-based thermal power plants brought together experts from pollution control boards, thermal power companies, labour unions, researchers and civil society experts who came together to discuss the current legal provisions and regulatory gaps which need to be addressed in the context of Just Transition.



Experts discuss the legal gaps and requisites to ensure a Just Transition of thermal power plants at the release of iFOREST's report release and webinar.

Webinar on Just Transition of unprofitable and End-of-Life mines in India

October 2022

In the Webinar on the Just Transition of unprofitable and End-of-Life mines in India, the erstwhile Secretary of the Ministry of Coal, Anil Jain, experts from Coal India Limited's (CIL's) key subsidiaries, labour unions, policy researchers and civil society organisations released the report and discussed the current legal provisions and their adequacy in addressing the challenges of just transition.



Erstwhile Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Anil Jain and expert representatives from the coal industry, labour unions and researchers at iFOREST's report release and Webinar on Just Transition of old and End-of-Life mines

Opinion pieces

Living In Hothouse India

We have entered a new age of heatwaves. Concrete and glass-heavy urban buildings are a major hazard

Chandra Bhushan

India is soaring. Large parts of the country have entered the grip of unbearable heat and humidity. March this year was the hottest March on record since 1977. April has witnessed a record number of heatwaves. Delhi has recorded eight heatwave days in April so far and the maximum temperature in the city is 47°C. Chennai has recorded 18 heatwave days in April so far. In the capital, the heatwaves have been particularly long and severe.

Heatwaves have been particularly long and severe. In the past few years, the intensity of heatwaves has been increasing. The average temperature in Delhi has risen by 2°C in the last 25 years. In Chennai, the temperature has risen by 3°C in the last 25 years.

In Delhi, the heatwaves have been particularly long and severe. In the past few years, the intensity of heatwaves has been increasing. The average temperature in Delhi has risen by 2°C in the last 25 years.

The heatwaves in India are not just a matter of inconvenience. They are a matter of life and death for many people. In the past few years, thousands of people have died due to heatwaves.

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The large amount of heat retained from the buildings makes them hot ovens. For example, while air conditioning works well in Chennai, it does not work in Delhi. The heatwaves in Delhi are particularly severe.

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THE REAL MAINSTREAM

THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION 2008 NEEDS TO BE REVISED TO CAPTURE ALL ENVIRONMENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Defining the environment sector

CHANDRA BHUSHAN
Executive Director, Centre for Environment and Development, GIZ India

WHAT IS THE environment sector?
It includes all activities that are related to the environment. This includes manufacturing, construction, and services.

Why is it important to define the environment sector?
It is important to define the environment sector because it helps us understand the impact of economic activities on the environment. This is crucial for developing sustainable policies.

How can we improve the environment sector classification?
We can improve the environment sector classification by including more activities related to the environment. This includes green manufacturing and green construction.

What are the benefits of a revised environment sector classification?
A revised environment sector classification will help us better understand the environmental impact of economic activities. This will allow us to develop more effective policies.

Conclusion
The environment sector is an important part of the economy. We need to revise the classification to capture all environment-related activities.

How do you attract investments into the environment sector?
We can attract investments into the environment sector by offering tax incentives and subsidies. We can also provide technical assistance and training.

What are the challenges of attracting investments into the environment sector?
The challenges of attracting investments into the environment sector include high costs and long payback periods. There is also a lack of information and expertise.

How can we overcome these challenges?
We can overcome these challenges by providing financial support and technical assistance. We can also improve the information and expertise available.

Conclusion
Attracting investments into the environment sector is crucial for sustainable development. We need to overcome the challenges and provide the necessary support.

What are the benefits of a green economy?
A green economy offers many benefits, including reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality. It also creates new jobs and stimulates economic growth.

How can we achieve a green economy?
We can achieve a green economy by investing in renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and protecting natural resources. We also need to promote sustainable consumption and production.

What are the challenges of achieving a green economy?
The challenges of achieving a green economy include high costs and long payback periods. There is also a lack of information and expertise.

How can we overcome these challenges?
We can overcome these challenges by providing financial support and technical assistance. We can also improve the information and expertise available.

Conclusion
A green economy is essential for sustainable development. We need to overcome the challenges and achieve a green economy.

Counting Trees Properly

How to read biennial forest surveys? The best way is decadal data produced by same methods

Chandra Bhushan

India State of Forest Reports (ISFR) are published every two years. These reports provide valuable information about the state of forests in India. The ISFR 2022 shows that India has lost 580 million hectares of forest in the last two decades.

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Green energy and just transition

NIKUNJA B DHAL
CHANDRA BHUSHAN

Executive Director, Centre for Environment and Development, GIZ India

Coal-rich states in the country can take a cue from Odisha's new renewable energy policy, which is geared to ensure a just energy transition

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His, Stop Copying The Plains

Joshimath shows we need a radically different growth model for Himalayan states

Chandra Bhushan

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It's Them Or Us, Not All Of Us

Ukraine war showed rich countries can find money for diversifying their own energy supply but not for global climate finance. It also showed how fossil fuel companies exploited governments' energy security concerns

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Weather Shifts in Climate Talks

Two changes: accepting that biggest polluters will pay poor nations & pressure on China, India to contribute



Chandra Bhushan



The 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which wrapped up the early hours of Sunday at the Egyptian resort of Sharm El Sheikh in a session that will have far-reaching implications for the climate talks in the years ahead.

COP27 kicked off with the demand by the developing countries, especially least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked countries, to accept a 'Loss and Damage' fund to compensate them for the damage caused by climate change.

China, the largest current emitter and second-largest historical emitter of CO2, has been pushed to the sidelines. China has been pushed to the sidelines. China has been pushed to the sidelines.

The outcome of COP27 is not so much in words as it is in the direction the international negotiations are moving in. For India, it is important to recognise these decisive shifts and develop a negotiating strategy.

Developing countries have wanted to see the classification of COP27 as a 'loss and damage' fund. This is a very clear but not clearly mentioned the larger role of emerging economies. It is a very clear but not clearly mentioned the larger role of emerging economies.

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THE REAL MAINSTREAM

THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN INCREASING COAL CONSUMPTION IN INDIA AND IMPLEMENTING A JUST TRANSITION IN THE COAL DISTRICTS AND STATES

We are already late on fair green transition

ON MARCH 18, 2022, an extremely important and timely report was issued by Praveen Kishore and Chandra Bhushan, which was written by Praveen Kishore and Chandra Bhushan.

India's coal demand is growing, and will continue to grow, at least in the short run. But the response that the country is taking to meet this demand is not what we need for a fair green transition.

There should be no doubt that an energy transition, propelled mainly by the Centre's ambitious renewable energy targets, is underway in the country. These targets have brought in the latest generation of coal capacity and meeting citizens' energy needs.

It took six decades for Germany's Ruhr valley to implement a just transition, but the result is for everyone to see. Today, Ruhr is a hub of green industry and service sector jobs.

Overall, 79% of coal India's limited CO2 production and almost all profits come from just 15 large mines, the rest of the coal production is from small mines.

Today, Ruhr is a hub of green industry and service sector jobs. The workforce and investment in the coal districts and states in India are not adequate to meet the demand for a just transition.

Overall, 79% of coal India's limited CO2 production and almost all profits come from just 15 large mines, the rest of the coal production is from small mines.

El Chunao: Monsoon & Mandates

El Nino is likely affecting rains. From colonial times, this weather phenomenon has strongly shaped India's political economy. How it will impact 2023-24's major elections will depend on govt response



Chandra Bhushan



As revealed from the National Climate Atmospheric Administration of the US and the World Meteorological Organization, El Niño is likely to affect India's monsoon rains.

El Niño has a significant impact on the economic and political history of India. In fact, the El Niño phenomenon has been a recurring theme in Indian history.

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THE REAL MAINSTREAM

'PRICE-EQUALISATION' POLICIES, MIRRORING SOME PRE-LIBERALISATION SCHEMES, ARE DISTORTING SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

India's renewables disparity

EVEN A GOOD policy with the best intentions can be undermined and adverse consequences can be avoided by a price equalisation scheme.

India's renewable energy generation is highly skewed towards the eastern and southern regions. This is due to the price equalisation policies implemented by the government.

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50 साल पहले 1972 में लोकसभा ने पहला पर्यावरण बिल पास किया था पर्यावरण पर कैसा है रिपोर्टकार्ड



सन् 2022 पर्यावरण के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण वर्ष है। 50 साल के इतिहास में, हमने पर्यावरण के लिए कई कानून बनाए हैं, लेकिन हमें अभी भी बहुत काम करना है।

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वायु प्रदूषण: पूरे देश में संकट की आहट...



वायु प्रदूषण के कारण में हर साल 12 लाख की संख्या में लोगों की जान बचती है। वायु प्रदूषण को नियंत्रित करने के लिए हमें तुरंत कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए।

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GOVERNING COUNCIL



Raghunath Anant Mashelkar

National Research Professor, Former Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research



Pradeep Dutt

Leadership & Executive Coach



Anjali

Senior Lawyer



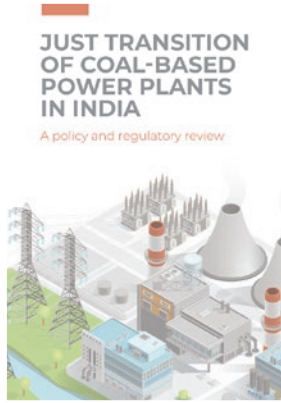
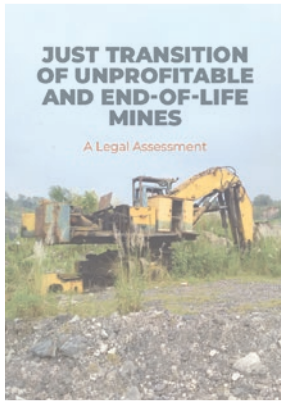
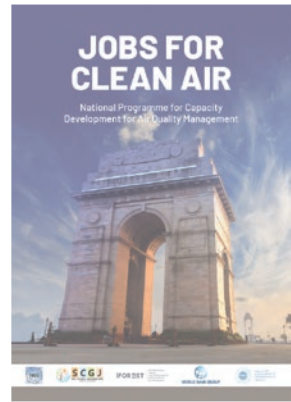
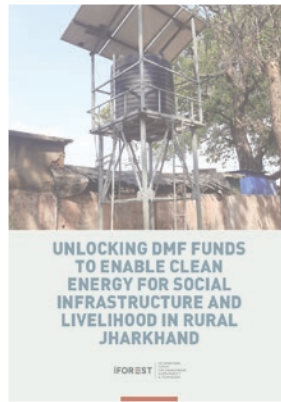
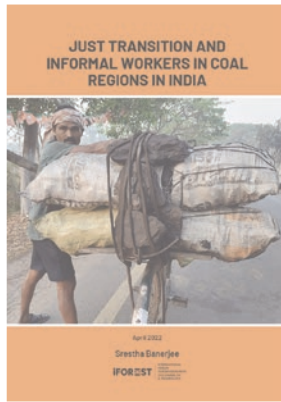
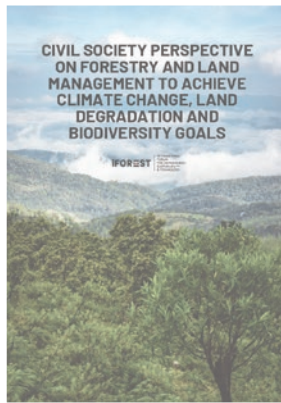
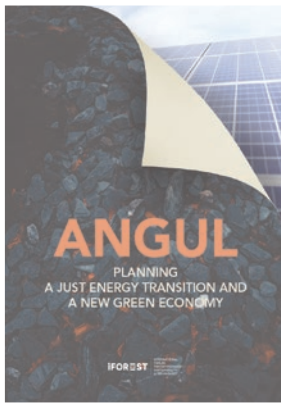
Chandra Bhushan

President & CEO
iFOREST



Anil Kumar Roy

Associate Professor
Faculty of Planning
CEPT University



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