

# **UTTAR PRADESH FOREST POLICY, 2017**

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The state of Uttar Pradesh announced its new State Forest Policy on October, 2017 in place of State Forest Policy, 1998.

The objectives of State Forest Policy, 2017 are as follows:

- Improvement of existing natural and planted forest by conservation, development and scientific and thoughtful management.
- Formulation and implementation of scheme of afforestation and soil conservation in different types of degraded land of state viz. usar, khadar, ravines and blank forest.
- Special emphasis on forest dweller centric forest management.
- Increase of tree cover by social and agro-forestry plantation on private land.
- To get carbon credits on the plantations which is planted according to international standards.
- To endeavor for the reduction of siltation of water and reservoirs and effects of floods and droughts through controlled measures over soil-erosion.
- To promote plantation over non-forest land.

- To prepare and implement strategies for conservation and improvement of biodiversity and wild life in the state.
- To develop eco-tourism destination.

## **Forest Development Schemes in Uttar Pradesh**

Some important forest schemes of the state are given below:

***Forest Festival/Van Mahotsav*** It is celebrated since the declaration of this festival by the National Forest Policy, 1952. It is celebrated from 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> July as Van Mahotsav Week.

***Social Forestry*** It is a major State Government funded scheme for tree plantation and was started by the National Forest Policy in the year 1979-80 in Uttar Pradesh.

***Uttar Pradesh Forestry Scheme*** It was started on 19<sup>th</sup> march, 1998 with the assistance of the World Bank. It is located near the Dudhwa National Park and National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary.

***Operation Green*** This scheme was started on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2001, in Uttar Pradesh for tree plantation. The scheme was started with the assistance of local community various government departments, schools and private organizations. Since 2007-08 this scheme is in operation.

***Vriksha Bandhu Puraskar Yojana*** This scheme was started in the year 2007-08. Various awards were given to people and organizations who promote plantations and wildlife conservation in the state.

***Formulation of Management Scheme*** This scheme was started in the year 2007-08. For the preservation of forests different management schemes are formulated under this scheme.

***Tree Cover Extension Scheme*** This scheme was started in the year 2007-08 in 48 districts of the state to extend tree cover in these districts.

***High Value Plantation Scheme*** This schemes was started in 2008-09 in 16 forests divisions of the state.

***Joint Forest Management Scheme*** There are two schemes being implemented in the state since 2010, namely, Joint Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation Schemes in 16 districts of Terai, Vindhya and Bundelkhand with the assistance of Japan Government. Belhatthi village of Sonbhadra district has been declared as the first village forest of the state.

***Vir Abdul Hameed Forest, Wildlife and Environment***

***Protection Award Scheme*** This scheme was started in the year 2012-13. Under this scheme individual and organizations get a cash of Rs 1 Lakh and 2 Lakh respectively.

***Green Belt Development Scheme*** This scheme is in operation since 2012-13. Under this scheme different tree species are being planted in the community places.

***Total Forest Cover Scheme*** This scheme is in operation since 2014-15 in the state to ensure complete greenery in 6 districts i.e. Lucknow, Etawah, Badaun, Manipuri, Unnao and Kannauj.

***Social Forestry-tribal Sub Plan*** This scheme is in operation in the ST dominated areas such as Shraswati, Bahraich, Sonbhadra, Renukoot and Obra forest divisions.

***Social Forestry in Urban Areas*** This scheme aims to plant ornamental and shady trees on the unused land.

***Industrial and Pulp wood Tree Plantation*** This scheme promotes the plantation of different types of trees like gutel, alianthus, semal, khair, etc. for forest based industries like match-wood, plywood, hardwood, etc.

***Hi-tech Nursery Scheme*** Under this scheme, hi-tech nurseries are being developed in districts like Bareilly, Bijnor, Pilibhit, Meerut, Budaun and Saharanpur in order to increase forest cover in the state.

***Intensification of Forest Management*** It is a joint scheme of Central and State Governments with a financial assistance of 75:25 ratio.

***Tree Promotion Scheme*** This scheme is being implemented in 10 districts of the state with the assistance of NABARD. This scheme will ensure the availability of high quality plantation material for future tree-plantation without any obstacles.

***Fuel Wood Plantation*** To stop the use of cow dung cake for fuel, fuel wood plantation is being promoted in the plain regions where fuel wood is not adequately available.

***Plantation of Ravine*** Land degradation has become a grave situation in those regions of Agra, Etawah, Manipuri and Jalaun which are situated along the banks of Yamuna, Chambal and Betwa rivers. Thus, land management

conservation and plantation schemes are being implemented here to save these regions.

***Ram-Ganga Valley Scheme*** Land conservation pasture development and tree plantation scheme are being implemented in the area outside the Ram Ganga River.