

## **Visit of Indian Delegation to UK Forestry Commission, Edinburgh**

ICFRE, would now integrate the practical approaches of Forest Landscape Restoration to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in forested and degraded landscape of the country. A bipartite agreement was signed in this regard between Government of India and U.K. Forestry Commission at Edinburgh (U.K) on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011, The agreement was signed at UKFC, Edinburgh by Mr Tim Rollinson, DG, UKFC, Dr P.J. Dilip Kumar, DGF & SS, MoEF, Government of India and Dr V.K Bahuguna, DG ICFRE, during the visit of high delegation of Government of India to UK from 3<sup>rd</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Other member of delegation comprised of Dr S.S Negi, Director FRI, Shri M.S Garbyal, DDG (Admin) ICFRE & Mr Sandeep Tripathi, Director ( Project & International Cooperation), apart from Shri A.M Singh DIG(SU), MoEF. The collaborative project would attempt to map assessment of potential FLR sites in different states of India and linking of other assessment being carried out in other countries under the umbrella of Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), founded by UK in the year 2002. The collaborative project conceive a draft Stakeholders Participatory Spatial Planning and Learning Platform (SPLP) and creation of a National Learning Network. It was also decided during the occasion to initiate a 3-5 years bigger Umbrella Project in collaboration with UKFC, to be funded by DFID, having elements of evaluation of ecosystem services that help alleviate poverty and are influenced by FLR and Sustainable Forest Management. The Project would also address impact of climate change; appropriate FLR based mitigation and adaptation strategies, and would also attempt involvement of community through JFM platform to address livelihood issues. It was also deliberated to establish an International Centre for Sustainable Development to address policy issues related to climate change, livelihood, ecosystem services and forest certification.

This project is continuation of the ongoing collaborative ICFRE-UK FLR Project since last year at ICFRE, where in the potential FLR sites in 3 states of India viz Uttarakhand, M.P, and Orissa were identified and the ecological and socio-economic parameters of this initiative mapped for refining appropriate methodologies for up scaling and applying in other states of India. The summary Report of “UK-India Forest Landscape Restoration Projects was also released during the occasion which contains the Indian contribution to FLR and elements of biodiversity, ecosystem benefits derived from FLR approaches in different parts of India.

The Indian delegation also visited Plan Vivo Foundation and Bio climate Centre, Liberton, Edinburgh, which is actively engaged in issues of carbon management and addressal of rural livelihood and has developed the Plan Vivo standard for carbon based projects. During the discussion with Mr. Wille Mc Ghee, Director Bioclimate it was decided that given the fact that communities in India are largely involved in management of Forests through the Platform of JFM, Plan Vivo would part technical assistance to India for development of community based carbon project and Development of independent standards by ICFRE for monitoring of there projects.

The delegation also visited FLR sites in Scotland in Lochaber Forest District at Lock Shiel and Glen Gary. This collaborative efforts between ICFRE and UKFC would open up new vistas of collaborative partnership in forestry research and management.