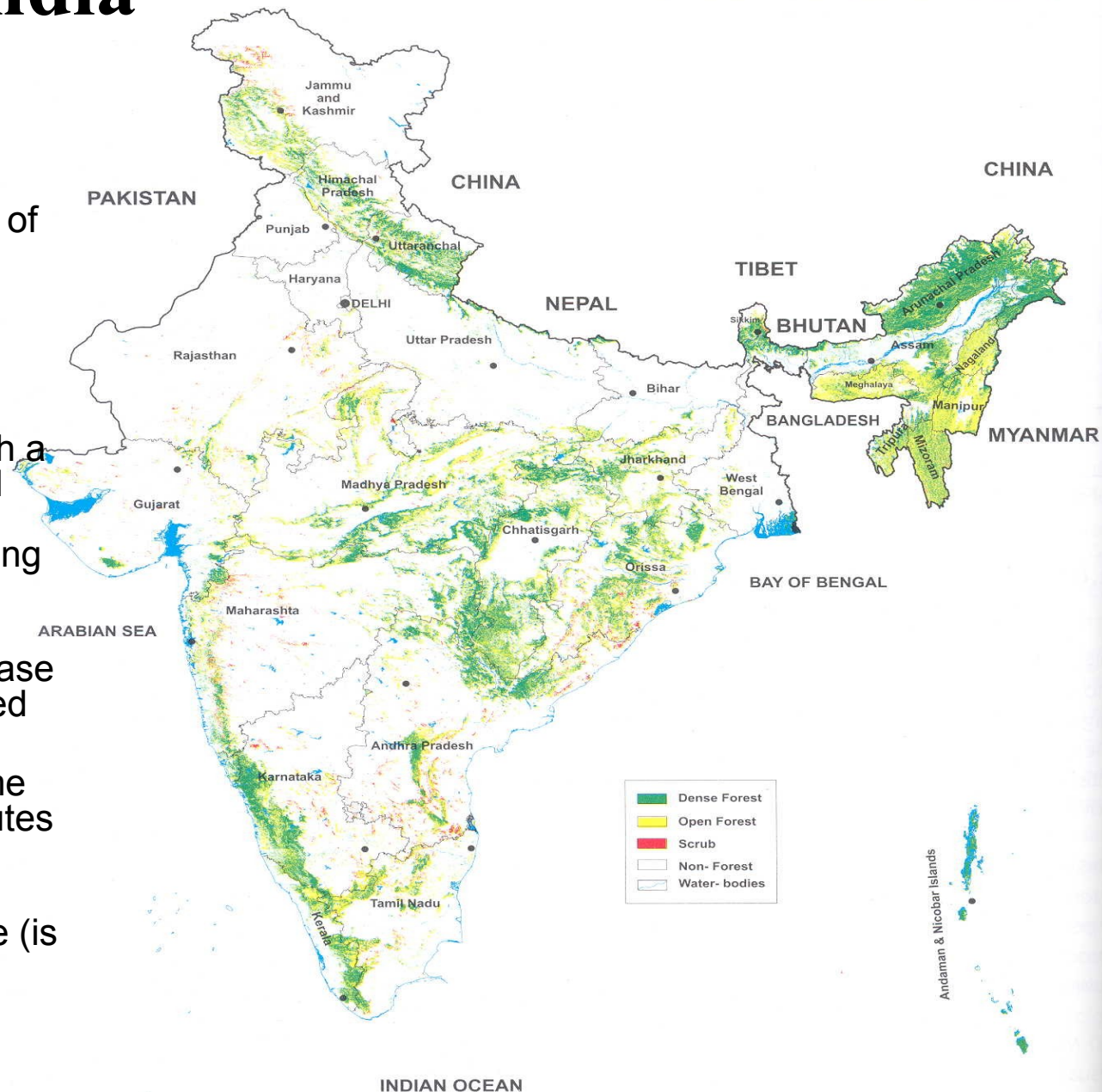


“Greening India”

FOREST COVER OF INDIA

- The present forest cover is of India is approx. 23%
- The aim is to increase it to 33% while conserving biodiversity
- These targets seems to be mutually incompatible (such a high plantation target could only be achieved, if at all, through massive fast-growing monocultures)
- There are also somewhat competing targets on increase in agricultural area that need to be taken into account.
- Where will all this land come from (there are major disputes around what constitutes “degraded land”)?
- How will the costs be borne (is the centralised CAMPA an appropriate mechanism)?





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Role of industry

- Developing incentives/market mechanisms to “reward” forest conservation by local communities (e.g. payments for ecosystem services)
- Ensuring sustainable consumption (including purchase and marketing) of forest-based industries, promoting and joining certification schemes
- Strengthening and supporting local cooperatives for sustainable harvesting and marketing of non-timber forest products
- Focus on improving forest density in degraded forests which can be restored with low inputs and through participation of communities (with clear benefit sharing mechanisms)
- Focus on restoration of critical biodiversity and wildlife corridors which can help achieve twin goals of increasing forest cover and enhancing conservation