

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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## **Introduction**

MANT is committed to sustainable development, environmental conservation, and the promotion of climate resilience in tribal communities. Recognizing the interconnection between public health and environmental sustainability, this policy is reinforcing MANT's mission to preserve local ecology, promote climate resilience, and advance sustainable livelihoods.

## **Policy Objectives**

MANT's environmental policy is designed to:

- Prevent and mitigate environmental degradation through evidence-based interventions in tribal areas.
- Promote sustainable practices in agriculture, water conservation, and waste management.
- Ensure compliance with environmental regulations and advocate for stronger environmental governance in tribal regions.
- Enhance community participation in ecosystem restoration and conservation.
- Foster climate resilience through indigenous knowledge and modern sustainable technologies.
- Encourage responsible resource management while ensuring economic sustainability for marginalized communities.

## **Key Focus Areas**

### **Water Conservation and Pollution Control**

- Support protection and restoration of water bodies, including excavation and renovation of ponds.
- Promote safe water management practices to prevent contamination of drinking water sources.
- Ensure wastewater treatment and responsible sewage disposal in alignment with SPCB standards.

### **Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation**

- Advocate for reduced air pollution by promoting cleaner cooking technologies and reducing biomass burning.
- Implement community-based air quality monitoring in vulnerable areas.
- Encourage afforestation and rewilding initiatives to improve carbon sequestration.
- Engage in climate-smart agriculture, reducing emissions and improving resilience against climate change.

### **Soil health and nutrient cycling**

- Promote soil regeneration techniques, such as crop rotation and regenerative agriculture.
- Encourage composting and bio-fertilizers to improve soil organic matter.
- Prevent soil erosion through conservation agriculture, cover cropping, and check Dams

### **Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management**

- Support traditional agroforestry and climate-resilient farming techniques.
- Promote the sustainable use of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for economic empowerment without over-exploitation.
- Advocate for reduced pesticide and chemical fertilizer use while encouraging organic and sustainable farming methods.
- Facilitate land restoration projects to combat soil degradation.

### **Biodiversity Conservation and Indigenous Knowledge**

- Protect and restore degraded forest lands through community-led rewilding and agroforestry projects.
- Encourage the preservation of indigenous plant species used for traditional medicine and nutrition.
- Document and promote indigenous ecological knowledge to strengthen community-driven conservation.

### **Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy**

- Implement waste management programs with a focus on reducing plastic waste in tribal villages.
- Support up cycling and repurposing waste materials for local enterprises.
- Promote the use of biodegradable materials in community initiatives.
- Encourage recycling initiatives, including plastic buy-back programs and waste-to-
- Resource innovations like converting agricultural waste into biochar

### **Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology**

- Encourage the adoption of solar energy in tribal communities.
- Promote the use of biochar and alternative fuels for improved environmental and health outcomes.
- Advocate for circular economy principles in small-scale production, including sustainable handloom and natural dyeing practices.

### **Sustainability and Livelihoods**

- Strengthen agroforestry-based livelihoods to enhance rural resilience against climate change and economic uncertainty.
- Develop community-based enterprises focused on sustainable farming, eco-tourism, and agro-processing.
- Promote local employment opportunities through sustainable income-generating activities.
- Diversify income sources through eco-friendly and climate-resilient livelihoods such as sustainable fisheries, handicrafts, and renewable energy businesses.
- Promote farmer-led cooperatives to strengthen financial security.

### **Implementation Strategy**

MANT will:

- Collaborate with Government, Research Institutions, and Local Stakeholders to implement evidence-based environmental solutions.
- Engage in community capacity-building through training programs on sustainable practices.
- Establish environmental monitoring mechanisms using community-driven data collection.
- Advocate for policy reforms to enhance environmental protections in indigenous areas.
- Incorporate sustainability indicators into all projects and programs.

### **Compliance and Accountability**

- MANT will adhere to national and state-level environmental regulations and encourage local adherence to sustainability policies.
- Periodic impact assessments will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of environmental interventions.
- The organization will maintain transparency in environmental initiatives through annual sustainability reports.

MANT's Environmental Policy reinforces its commitment to climate resilience, sustainability, and the well-being of indigenous communities. By integrating traditional ecological wisdom with scientific innovations, MANT aims to create a healthier and more sustainable future for marginalized populations.