



Title: Action for the Aravallis: Advancing Restoration, Resilience, and Inclusive Growth

Date: 25th February 2026, Wednesday

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Venue: Jehangir 2, Taj Palace, New Delhi

Objectives of the thematic track

- Operationalize the vision of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for ecological restoration of the Aravalli Range.
- Identify targeted, evidence-based interventions addressing root causes of degradation, ensuring scalable and scientifically grounded restoration.
- Mobilize a multi-stakeholder coalition including government, private sector, civil society, and local communities to co-create pathways for resilient restoration and inclusive development.

Problem statement and state of play

The Aravalli Range stands out as one of the oldest and most ecologically significant mountain systems in the world. Originating in the Proterozoic era approximately 2.5 billion years ago, the Aravalli represents an exceptional geological formation that has profoundly influenced the ecological, hydrological, and climatic history of the Indian subcontinent. Extending over nearly 692 km, the range stretches from Palanpur in Gujarat, traverses Rajasthan, and continues through Haryana up to Delhi. The Aravalli range act as a natural barrier against desertification while playing a crucial role in groundwater recharge, biodiversity conservation, and climate regulation in north-western India.

Despite their immense ecological and historical significance, the Aravalli range are currently facing severe degradation. Pressures arising from various drivers of degradation and deforestation. Rapid urbanisation, land use changes, land fragmentation, extraction of resources, have resulted in biodiversity loss, soil erosion, declining water availability, and depletion of natural resources. These persistent environmental challenges underscore the urgent need for coordinated conservation and restoration efforts across the Aravalli landscape. Consequently, conservation and protection of the Aravalli have emerged as a national priority,

not only to protect their unique natural heritage but also to ensure sustainable water management, biodiversity conservation, and long-term climate resilience.

In this context, the Aravalli Green Wall Project, launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), represents a major national initiative focused on the Aravalli Hill Range across four states, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi. The project envisions the creation of an approximately 1,400 km long and 5 km wide green belt buffer aimed at restoring degraded landscapes, enhancing forest cover, and strengthening ecological connectivity.

TERI has been working with various partners in the Aravalli landscape. TERI is working in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in India, as part of the Aravalli Green Wall Landscape Program. TERI is also working on the Restore, Conserve and Protect Forest and Tree Cover for NDC Implementation in India (RECAP4NDC) in collaboration with GIZ. The aim of both the projects for the Aravalli landscape is same, restoration.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) India launched the AGWL Program in 2024 to advance MoEFCC's vision for ecological restoration and climate resilience through a holistic, multi-scalar landscape approach. Four scoping studies with partners identified key threats, drivers of degradation, and policy gaps, validated through field visits, stakeholder workshops, and geospatial analysis. To guide restoration, TNC India has developed a Decision Support System enabling data-driven eco-restoration across forests, wetlands, rivers, grasslands, and regenerative agriculture. Complementing this, a Conservation Action Plan outlines priority intervention sites and step-by-step implementation, with mechanisms to track progress and enable adaptive management. Together, these efforts aim to transform the Aravalli range into a resilient ecological corridor that sustains biodiversity, advances climate goals, and fosters inclusive development.

“Action for the Aravallis: Advancing Restoration, Resilience, and Inclusive Growth” is a thematic track jointly curated by TERI and TNC India at WSDS 2026. The panel will convene key stakeholders from across sectors including representatives of MoEFCC, forest and line departments, public institutions, the private sector, and NGOs active in the Aravalli region.

The dialogue is positioned to chart a clear pathway for the future of the Aravalli range resolving long-standing ambiguities in its protection, addressing systemic policy and governance gaps, and defining strategic entry points for restoration.

Guiding Questions:

- What policy and governance mechanisms are needed to address systemic gaps and ensure long-term protection?
- How can diverse stakeholders including local communities be mobilized into a unified restoration coalition?
- What financing and incentive structures can sustain restoration efforts while delivering co-benefits for climate, biodiversity, and livelihoods?

Agenda

Time	Inaugural Session (15 min)
2:00-2:02 pm	Welcome of Guests
2:02-2:07 pm	Welcome Address <i>Dr Jitendra Vir Sharma, Senior Director, TERI</i>
2:07-2:12 pm	Background on Aravalli and its Ecorestoration <i>Dr Anjali Acharya, Managing Director, TNC India</i>
2:12-2:22 pm	Greening of Aravalli <i>Mr Sushil Kumar Awasthi, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India</i>
2:22-2:34 pm	Remarks by Chief Guest <i>Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India</i>
2:34-2:44 pm	Launch of a Decision Support System for Aravallis developed by TNC India
2:44-2:45 pm	Vote of Thanks <i>Mr Parikshit Abhimanyu Pawar, Research Associate, TERI</i>
2:45-3:25 pm	Panel Discussion
	<i>Dr Deep Narayan Pandey (Chair)</i> Senior Consultant, TNC India; Former PCCF & HoFF, Government of Rajasthan
	<i>Mr Ramesh Kumar Pandey</i> Additional Director General of Forest, Wildlife, MOEF&CC, Government of India
	<i>Mr Pavan Kumar Upadhyay (TBC)</i> PCCF & HoFF, Rajasthan Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan
	<i>Mr Shyam Sundar Kandpal (TBC)</i> PCCF, Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi
	<i>Mr Kundan Burnwal</i> Deputy Project Lead, RECAP4NDC, GIZ India
3:25-3:30 pm	<i>Ms Nidhi Batra (TBC)</i> Biodiversity Conservation & Blue Economy Portfolio Manager, AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
	Synthesis of Panel Discussion and Final Discussion <i>Dr Deep Narayan Pandey (Chair)</i>

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 25th edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 25-27 February 2026 in New Delhi. The deliberations of the **Silver Jubilee** edition of the Summit will focus on the umbrella theme of *Parivartan*: **Transformations: Vision, Voices and Values for Sustainable Development**.