



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY



For Immediate Release:

For FES press inquiries, contact:
Sanjay Joshie
Executive Director
Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)
+91 8238065478
ed@fes.org.in

For LGT VP press inquiries, contact:
Oliver Karius
CEO
LGT Venture Philanthropy
+41 44 256 81 16
oliver.karius@lgtvp.com

LGT Venture Philanthropy partners with Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) to support restoration of ecosystems and enhancement of rural livelihoods in India

Bengaluru, India, January 11, 2021 – LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation (LGT VP), announces a new engagement to support Foundation for Ecological Security (FES). With LGT VP's flexible funding and capacity building support, FES will expand its efforts to restore natural resources and enhance rural communities' livelihoods through effective partnerships, open technology platforms and deep community ties.

FES empowers communities to have access to and effectively manage the Commons, comprising common pastures, community forests, uncultivated lands and water bodies which communities should have free access to. FES intervenes, both directly and through partnerships with government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to protect and restore ecosystems and enhance livelihoods through four core interventions:

- a) Enable communities to secure land tenure rights and forest rights
- b) Strengthen local governance of the community lands through capacity building of village institutions
- c) Create community awareness and promote the adoption of environmentally sustainable livelihood practices
- d) Support restoration activities leading to increased biomass generation and carbon sequestration

Since its inception in 2001, FES has brought more than 8 million acres of Commons under improved governance benefitting over 15 million people in 11 states of India. FES provides technical training, capacity building, modest financial support and knowledge-sharing platforms to field workers and partners to implement their core inventions. Technology tools as well as policy and program partnerships with the government have been key to scaling its impact in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

LGT VP is committed to the protection and regeneration of ecosystems by focusing on scalable terrestrial and marine conservation models with a strong component of Natural Climate Solutions that are embedded in the local community. Oliver Karius, CEO of LGT VP shared, "With an integrated model for creating systems-level impact, FES's work is vital to restoring degraded ecosystems while empowering communities to be the stewards of change and benefit from improved livelihoods. LGT VP is delighted to partner with FES on its ambitious mission to restore 30 million acres of Commons in India in the next five years."

Sanjay Joshie, CEO at FES shared, "Regenerating Commons - village forests, pastures and water bodies - offers considerable promise to improve the economic opportunities of the rural poor. FES takes great pride in joining hands with LGT VP in bringing about a narrative shift where local communities are seen as natural partners in conservation.

The valuable support from LGT VP will help bolster our efforts in improving the management and governance of over 30 million acres of Common lands (i.e. one-sixth of India's common lands) over the next five years.”

FES will leverage LGT VP’s funding to scale its impact by strengthening partnerships, developing robust technology tools and enhancing carbon sequestration abilities.

Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is an India-based non-profit established in 2001. As ‘ecological security’ is the foundation of sustainable and equitable development, the organization empowers local communities to secure land rights, strengthens local governance, promotes sustainable livelihoods and restores ecosystems. For more information, please visit <http://fes.org.in/>.

LGT Venture Philanthropy is an independent charitable foundation established in 2007 with teams in Switzerland, Sub-Saharan Africa, and India. The foundation strives to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people, contribute to healthy ecosystems, and build resilient, inclusive, and prosperous communities. For more information, please visit www.lgtvp.com.

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