ENVIS is a decentralized system with a network of subject-oriented centers ensuring integration of national efforts in environmental information collection, collation, storage, retrieval and dissemination to all concerned. The principal target groups of ENVIS are decision makers, policy planners, scientists and engineers, research workers and students.

It was established by the Government of India in December 1982 with an aim of providing easy access to environment related information. Presently the ENVIS network consists of focal point at the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and ENVIS Centres setup in different organizations/establishments in the country.

The ENVIS Centre at CPREEC was established in April 2004 by the Environmental Information System (ENVIS) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India and assigned the responsibility for being the focal point for the thematic area of Ecological Heritage and Sacred Sites of India.