Joint Forest Management (JFM) has emerged as an important intervention in the management of India's forest resources. This report sets out an analytical framework for examining the costs and benefits of JFM arrangements. Two pilot case studies in Assam and Rajasthan have shown that JFM is an effective way of improving forest management, reducing conflict between local communities and the forest department, and increasing the participation of local people in decision-making and forest management. The report concludes that JFM is a viable and sustainable approach to forest management, and that it has the potential to contribute to the achievement of the multiple goals of meeting subsistence needs, rural equity, sustainable forestry practices, and conservation. The study recommends that the JFM approach should be replicated in other states in India and elsewhere, with a focus on the development of a national strategy for JFM implementation.