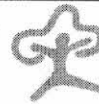




10th Conference of Parties
HYDERABAD INDIA 2002



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India



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वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥



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Gol-UNDP project-Biodiversity conservation through community based natural resources management 2008-2012

Key Highlights of the Project

This project seeks to pilot various community-based natural resource management initiatives with the objective of ensuring livelihood security and at the same time address biodiversity conservation. This project has two major components-field-based activities with a focus on grass-root conservation interventions and national-level activities with a focus on providing lessons from the field-based activities for informing the legislative and policy frameworks of the country.

The project objectives are to:

- Facilitate the process of making the national and state-level policies and programmes more responsive to linkages between sustainable rural livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.
- Enhance the capacity of communities and institutions of decentralised governance for integrating sustainable biodiversity based livelihoods in participatory micro planning while ensuring equity, transparency and accountability.

State coordinating agencies- GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce (T&D) Cooperative Federation Ltd., Institute of Forest Productivity and Regional Plant Resource Centre are implementing site-based activities based on micro-plans developed in consultation with communities to conserve available natural resources that would also provide alternate opportunities for livelihood.

Project sites:

- Arunachal Pradesh-Apatani Plateau, Tawang-West Kameng proposed Biosphere Reserve
- Chhattisgarh-Jadalpur, North Kondagaon, Katghora Reserved Forests
- Jharkhand-Palamau, Trikut Parvat, Bokaro (mining dump sites), Kunti, Palajouri
- Orissa-Ghodahad Dam. Cluster of Digapahandi Range, Berhampur Forest Division, Padiabahal cluster of Padiabahal Range, Sambalpur Forest Division, Niladriprasad cluster of Balugaon Range

BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT

- ▶ Executing Agency-Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and supported by United Nations Development Programme
- ▶ Duration of project: 2008-2012 with a fund allocation of 3 million USD
- ▶ Intended outcome: demonstrate gender-equitable and community driven approach to strengthen actions for biodiversity conservation and reduce poverty through sustainable livelihood practices.
- ▶ Specific target community groups: indigenous tribes- Monpa, OrHrusso, Apatani (Arunachal Pradesh), Dhanwar, Meejwar, Gond tribes (Chhattisgarh), Munda, Santhal Ho, Oraon (Jharkhand), Savara, Soura, Keuta, Binjhal, Mirdha, Goud (Orissa) represented through institutions-Joint Forest Management Committees, Eco-Development Committees and Forest Protection Committees, inhabiting selected villages that fringe protected and reserved forest areas

THE DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT-

India with about 2.4% of land area accounts for 7-8% of globally recorded species of flora and fauna and of the 20.63% of forest area contributes to the world's collection of mega biodiversity. Since long a majority of Indian tribal people are living in remote forest fringed villages and are surviving on livelihoods that are directly dependent on natural resources and elements of biodiversity. Majority of them are still below the poverty line. Based on their traditional knowledge, tribal people interact with nature and respect to preserve forests, conserve the web of biodiversity, which has shaped their lifestyles, culture and livelihoods. In recent years, there is an extreme pressure on the biological resources, due to overuse of the common pool of forest based resources including soil, land, and water that are diverted for excessive usage such as- fuel, fodder and yield of crops. This has affected ecological systems, its natural yield, and loss of habitats.

Most recently increased occurrence of natural disasters like floods and drought including changes in climatic conditions is influencing the existence of biological resources and forests. Moreover, there have been variations in policies and plans to guide the integration of biodiversity conservation into various sectors of development including governance. This has highlighted the disparity between ecological and livelihood security, which is important for local communities. Consequently, as the gap between need for basic development benefits i.e. education, health services, food supply and livelihood opportunity are limited, poverty conditions remains. So much so people are exposed to even greater risks from having limited access to share benefits from use of bio-resources for livelihood needs. This has posed a challenge for national policies to achieve the target for reducing loss of forest area, its biological resources including its management and conservation at community level.

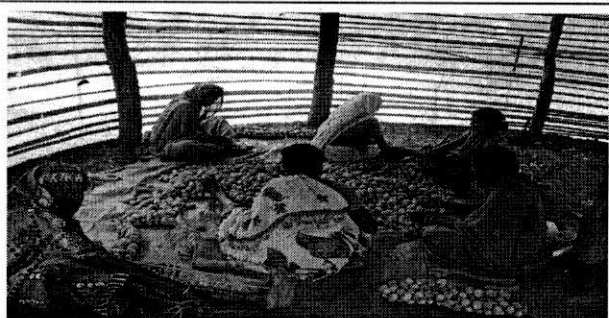
SUCCESS FACTORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Each implementing partners have implemented site-specific activities in context of a strong biodiversity cum livelihood linkage that exist within different ecosystems, diverse cultures, lifestyles as well as state laws, policies and local governance systems. The sites identified by the project are based on the site's coverage within a bio-geographic zone and existing network of protected area, community or reserved forests. Diverse issues are adequately addressed through this project and centred around:

- ▶ recovery and conservation of plants and tree species that are of value,
- ▶ re-vitalization of traditional knowledge of customary livelihood practices to manage changes in conservation values
- ▶ reinforce conservation institutions to secure access to rights and administer better decisions to recognize livelihood opportunities at community level and ensure that gender and equity issues

Piloted results are achieved from implementing field activities through a broad approach based on-

- ▶ generating and revitalizing sustainable livelihoods,
- ▶ capacity building through orientation and skill development,
- ▶ networking and advocacy for community based institutions
- ▶ participatory monitoring and documentation of site-specific studies.



Tribal women of Katghora Forest Division are empowered to manage forests and its biodiversity for obtaining yield of minor forest produce like Raily Tussar cocoons required for spinning tussar silk by local textile industry.

KEY RESULTS

-Community based institutions-Biodiversity Management Committees (22) in Arunachal Pradesh, and Forest Protection Committees(10) & Eco-development committee (7), Self Help Groups (119 in 40 villages) in Jharkhand, Joint Forest Management Committee (19) &Self Help Groups (41 in 32 villages) in Chhattisgarh, and Village Cluster Committees(3) in Orissa strengthened with supportive self-governance linkages to manage bio-resources, improve access to basic infrastructure needs - water harvesting structures, agriculture tools, including health and sanitation facilities for tribal communities and livestock.

-Revitalize traditional knowledge through a micro-planning approach and document value and use of biological resources by involving selected communities from 122 villages in four states

-Engaging tribal people in *In-situ* conservation measures to regenerate threatened species of trees, plants and shrubs at selected sites covering about 3500 hectare in Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh

-About 20,000 hectares of demarcated forest plots in Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa surveyed to know about the ethno-botanical resources- climbers, shrubs, plants and tree variety, medicinal, aromatic value and extracts of minor forest by-products.

-Improving status of biodiversity through *Ex-situ* conservation measures for regenerating growth of native tree species by setting up 6 nurseries including 2 high altitude nurseries for horticulture of more than 60,000 saplings of high density energy and medicinal plant variety and re-planted at selected degraded habitat sites, designated community conserved areas and sacred groves.

-Promoting equitable access and sharing of common pool of bio-resources by empowering 48 Self Help Groups to continue livelihood with preference for agro-forestry, horticulture, pisciculture, poultry, goatry, piggery, extraction of enlisted traditional medicinal plants, NTFPs, operate established 6 NTFP based micro enterprises to process and add value to harvested minor forest produces. Alternate income generating activities promoted through capacity development trainings for beneficiaries to take up- eco-tourism, weaving, tailoring, grocery shops, making incense stick, candles, bio-briquettes, lantana charcoal, organic vermi-compost, and organic based systematic cultivation of seasonal crops and vegetables.

CONTACT

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State Coordinating Agencies-

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*GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh,

*Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi, Jharkhand

*Regional Plant Resource Centre, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

State Website : <http://undp.org.in/sites/default/files/FS-CBNRM.pdf>

http://www.rprcbsr.com/spl_project.html

<http://www.cgmfpfed.org/bccnm.html>



Bari village in Khunti area, Jharkhand are conserving sacred grove of Sal & Bhelwa trees