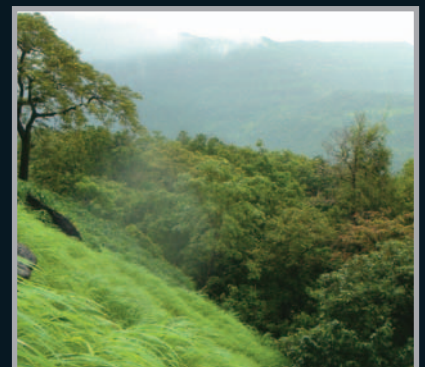




Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Partnership with Local Communities around Protected Areas

A WWF-DST Partnership



The Project, "People and Protected Areas: Conservation and Sustainable livelihoods in partnership with local communities" is a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India (DST) and WWF-India to coordinate and support the efforts of local and grassroots NGOs promoting innovative mechanisms to enhance local livelihoods for communities living in and around PAs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To demonstrate innovative approaches and mechanisms based on appropriate technological inputs that enhance sustainable local livelihoods for local and indigenous communities living around PAs across the country.
2. To support and build capacity of NGOs and CBOs implementing these initiatives for enhancing links between conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
3. To enhance impacts and sustainability of the initiatives through facilitation of learning and sharing of lessons within and between community groups, NGOs, government agencies and the private sector.

OVERVIEW

13 Protected Areas from different eco-systems along with 13 partners have been identified to work under this project. A total of **50 villages** have been covered under this project with a population of around **25000**. More than **2000 households** have been involved directly in the project. Overall, the project has engaged with over 66 existing village level institutions and created around **40 new groups/institutions**.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AND NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

- NTFP Value Addition, Herbal Products, Nursery Raising and Medicinal Plant Cultivation = 900
- Floriculture, Agroforestry, Composting, Vegetable and Mushroom Cultivation, Agriculture and Forest Home Garden, = 1000
- Animal Husbandry and Fodder = 175
- Millet, Pulse, Cereal and Oilseed Processing = 112
- Safe Drinking Water = 80 (does not include tourists and other indirect users)
- Weaving and Craft = 180
- Improved Chulhas, Biogas, Dhaba digester, Bio-globule, Charcoal = 140
- Sea weed cultivation and improved fishing = 135

Beneficiaries are either individuals or households.

Project Sites, Major Communities and Partners

Protected Areas	District/State	Partner	Major Communities
Kibber Sanctuary	Spiti, Himachal Pradesh	MUSE	Bodhs, Sherpas
Senchal Sanctuary	Darjeeling, West Bengal	Darjeeling Earth Group	Lepchas, Bhotiyas
Srivilliputhur Sanctuary	Virudunagar, Tamil Nadu	Covenant Centre for Development	Paliyans
Bhimashankar Sanctuary	Pune, Maharashtra	Applied Environmental Research Foundation	Mahadev Kolis, Thakars, Kataris
Sitamata Sanctuary	Pratapgarh, Rajasthan	Prayas	Bhils, Meena
Sanjay Gandhi National Park	Thane, Maharashtra	Rural Communes	Warlis, Katkaris
Suhelwa Sanctuary	Sravasti, Uttar Pradesh	Raghvendra Rural Development and Research Organisation	Tharus
Baisipalli Sanctuary	Nayagarh, Orissa	Vasundhara	Kondhs
Nalabana Sanctuary (Chilika)	Puri, Orissa	Centre for Action Research and Documentation	Kandaras
Dalma Sanctuary	Saraikela, Jharkhand	Shramjivi Unnayan	Santhals, Bhumij, Sabars, Pahariyas
Purna Sanctuary	Dangs, Gujarat	WWF India	Warlis
Srisailem Sanctuary (Tiger Reserve)	Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh	SAKTI	Chenchus
Kanha National Park (Tiger Reserve)	Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh	Community Development Centre	Baigas, Gonds

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FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

Woolen Durries: Tharus living around Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh use natural grasses to weave and make mats and baskets. Under this project, they were trained to make durries by using wool and on loom. 90 day long trainings have been given to perfect the art of durrie making. Tharus have formed a group and are trying to get themselves empanelled with TRIFED. From the sale of durries so far, a corpus of Rs 40,000 has been created for the group to purchase raw material and equipments.

Mahua Collection and Value Addition: Mahua is an important non timber forest produce among the tribals and forest dwellers in Orissa. It provides livelihood sustenance for the tribes for six to eight months in a year. Communities living around Baisipalli also depend on Mahua for their food and cash income.

Traditionally, people used to put fire under the tree to remove leaf litter, insects etc and then collect the fallen flowers. This mahua did not fetch a good price in the market as it was full of grit. Under this programme, collection through use of nets was introduced. This not only saved time but also prevented fires from spreading into the forest and getting mahua free from any dirt.

This good quality mahua has been used for food processing. With the help of Ouat, a Mahua mixed jam was developed. The product was sold at fairs and received a good response. A womens group "Ma Panthei Womens' Cooperative" has been formed for processing the mahua into a jam and also selling it. Seventy-nine households are involved in this activity. The cost of making Mahua jam is Rs. 110 per kilogram and the selling price is Rs. 140 per kilogram. For every kilogram sold, each household is earning Rs. 30.

Improved Chulhas: Durga Mata Bachat Gat — A Warli women's self help group have learnt how to make improved chulhas for reducing the fuelwood consumption around Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Maharashtra. They have started receiving orders from neighbouring villages and have got an order of 100 chulhas so far. Currently they make a profit of Rs. 125 per chulha. One woman can make around 2-3 chulhas in a day by working 6-8 hours per day. The technology for making chulhas has been provided by ARTI. Those who have been using improved chulhas have stated that their fuelwood consumption has been reduced by almost half.

Coir Rope and Mat making: To diversify the livelihood and reduce dependency on Chilika, the Kandhara fishing community has been trained in making coir rope and mats. This activity has led to an increase of Rs. 800-1100 per month for each beneficiary involved in this activity. Around 2000 pieces of coir mats and 25 quintals of rope have already been produced and sold by the community.

Bio-globules/briquettes: Villagers living near Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary depended a lot on the PA for their fuelwood requirements. A few households were trained to make bio-globules/briquettes from biomass waste. This activity was very quickly adopted as it gave more heat, was smokeless and reduced the burden of fuelwood collection from the forests. A total of 6320 bio-globules/briquettes have been produced for both self use and sale. This enterprise has managed to decrease household consumption of fuelwood by 43 percent in summers and 66 percent in winters. Some of the other benefits observed from the use of bio-globules/briquettes are reduced cough and respiratory problems, reduced fatigue and availability of free time, convenience in washing utensils since the utensils are not blackened with soot.

Solar operated bathing facility: Twenty families from Langza village adjacent to Kibber Sanctuary, Spiti have been involved in setting up the facility in 2009. The local villagers are managing the solar geyser and responsible for its repair and maintenance. On an average, there has been an annual saving of Rupees five thousand per household in terms of purchasing fuel wood. In addition there has been a reduction of consumption of around five quintals of fuel wood per household annually. Other villages like Demul and Hikkim have also shown interest in the solar bathing facility.

WWF-DST: People & PA's Project Sites



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Development of diverse models for sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities around PAs
- Development of consistent frameworks for baseline data collation to assist with objective impact assessment
- Development of a participatory monitoring framework with indicators on key social and biological parameters
- Demonstrating approaches which enhance links between conservation and sustainable livelihoods
- Creation of an informal network to facilitate learning and sharing of lessons across sites and partners
- Enhanced local institutional capacity for integrating biodiversity conservation and livelihoods
- Development of strategies for up scaling and lobbying with agencies

SOME TECHNICAL PARTNERS IN THIS INITIATIVE

ARTI, Pune
Aurore systems, Pondicherry
BAIF, Pune and Delhi
CARD, Bhopal
Central Wool Development Board, Delhi
Coir Board, Bhubaneshwar
Deccan Development Society, Hyderabad
Delhi University, Delhi
Development Commissioner
Handicraft, Delhi
Development Alternative, Delhi
FRLHT, Bangalore
Forest Research Institute, Dehradun
HIMUL, Darjeeling
HESCO, Dehradun
IIFM, Bhopal
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and Mumbai
Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri
Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dangs
Koval foundation, Vishakhapatnam
National Orchid Research Centre, Darjeeling
Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari
Orissa University of Agriculture Technology, Bhubaneshwar
Spantek Food Machines, Pune
Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Kalimpong



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