

2. Community rights and participation in Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan

Team: Neema Pathak and Ashish Kothari

Year of commencement: 2010

Year of completion: Ongoing

Funding: voluntary; local groups provide travel support

On 17-18th March 2010, Kalpavriksh helped the NGO KRPAVIS to organize a workshop with villagers from the Sariska Tiger Reserve, on issues of their rights, participation, and livelihoods in relation to wildlife conservation. This included discussions on the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act 2006 and the Forest Rights Act 2006. A field visit was made to Panidhal village, and to the Devnarayan Devbani (oran) conserved by the community, both inside the Reserve. Inputs are thereafter being provided to KRPAVIS for follow up, including to raise issues of improper and illegal evictions.

3. Community participation in management planning of Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve, Kachchh, Gujarat

Team: Neema Pathak and Ashish Kothari

Year of commencement: 2010

Year of completion: On going

Funding: voluntary; local groups provide travel support

On invitation from NGOs in Kachchh, Kalpavriksh members participated in a workshop on the newly declared Chhari Dhand (wetland) Conservation Reserve, on 25-26th December 2009, to provide inputs on community participation in its management planning. Discussions with communities and NGOs also included possibilities of using various laws for furthering conservation and livelihood rights. Visits included one to a community-run ecotourism venture (Shaam-e-Sarhad) and a community-conserved grassland-tree plot in Abdulavant village. Kalpavriksh has offered to continue providing such inputs on request.

III. Crop damage at Jardhargaon: assessing the causes and potential solutions

Coordinator: Sanjay Sondhi

Team: Ashish Kothari, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Prabhakar Rao, Ajay Mahajan, Anchal Sondhi

Year of commencement: Sep 2009

Year of completion: Feb 2011

Total funds sanctioned: \$ 5000 by GGF in February 2010

Developments in the mentioned period (Sep 2009-Mar 2010)

Assessed the issue of crop damage building on a KV study of 2008.

Perused existing studies.

Assessed potential study sites.

Submitted a proposal to fund the study.

Received funding for the study.

Assessed potential solutions including efforts by Himachal Pradesh Forest Department.

Collaborated with CES, IISC Bangalore for designing the study including attending a Man-animal conflict workshop in Bangalore.

Detailed planning of the study done including expected output, methodology, study sites, timelines.

Consultations held with the Jardhargaon community to brief them on the project-goals and objectives and methodology. Inputs received from the community on each of these issues.

IV. Community Conserved Areas in India

Coordinator: Neema Pathak

Team: Persis Taraporevala, Ashish Kothari, Milind Wani

Developments in the year

1. CCA Directory: The Directory was finally published and released during a workshop on CCAs in Naogaon, Assam. Directory has generated much interest in India and abroad.**2. MoEF committee on recognition and support of CCAs:** Guidelines have been submitted to the MoEF but the process of releasing the guidelines is very slow. It appears from a call from a senior forest officer in Himachal that the guidelines have finally have been issued to the state forest departments and the forest department has been asked to prepare a list of CCAs that can be considered for support. We have already cautioned the state about the negative impact of a hurried recognition process and have suggested a deliberated and slow process following the guidelines.

Implementation of other components of the scheme however continue, many proposals have been received by Ministry to seek funds under this scheme, namely, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats. All proposals have to be routed through the CWLW of the state as funds under this scheme is being handled by the Wildlife Department. Currently there are 4 proposals with the MoEF, 3 from Nagaland and 1 from Mizoram, all for creation of Community Reserves. We have had discussions with the person in charge at the Ministry that this should not become the trend and those seeking funds under this scheme should not feel compelled to acquire a legal status.

3. Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves:

Coordination: Neema Pathak

Table is being updated. (see also above, section II, on workshop on Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve). Site based help is continued to be extended to conservation reserves as and when asked for, e.g declaration of a CR in Tripura, proposed declaration in Vidarbha and others.

4. CCA South Asia - India activities: Project finished and a report was submitted to the coordinators, which was commented upon by the members of the advisory group and is currently being revised.

5. Forest Rights Act and CCAs: Researcher Reshma Jathar has been commissioned to carry out a review of implementation of Community Forestry Resource provisions of the FRA in CCAs and PAs in different parts of the country. Fieldwork was carried out in Orissa, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. Report is currently being finalized.

6. Community Based Conservation in the Lakshadweep: After participation in a workshop on community-based conservation of the Agatti lagoon in March 2009, organised by Bombay Natural History Society, inputs have been sent to the local youth group Lakshadweep Marine Research and Conservation Centre and BNHS as and when required. An intern from Chicago University had offered to compile a report on what kinds of participatory conservation practices exist in South Asian and South East Asian region, what can be learnt for Lakshadweep from these. The report is still awaited. This is expected to help LMRCC in their future work. One member of LMRCC, Idrees Babu participated in the CCA South Asia consultation that was organized in Nepal in August 2009. He is compiling information on some community conserved marine areas in Lakshadweep region, particularly in Minicoy Islands. This is intended to form a base of his work in future on how to support such initiatives in the region.

Important Bird Areas and CCAs: Inputs were provided to a national meeting of the Indian Bird Conservation Network (Bandhavagarh Tiger Reserve, MP, 31 Jan-2 February 2010), on the links between Important Bird Areas and CCAs, and on development/environment governance aspects of these, including recent legal/policy developments. Inputs have also been and continued to be provided to BNHS for a book on CCAs and IBAs that they plan to bring out.

CCAs and legal spaces: Neema and Ashish has worked on a detailed report on historic background and current status of the legal spaces available to CCAs in India and their pros and cons. This was done for Environment Law Centre of the IUCN.

V. Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in South Asia and Globally

(2 projects)

Va. Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in South Asia: Towards an Understanding of their Conservation and Livelihood Security Values

Coordinators: Seema Bhatt and Tasneem Balasinorwala

Team: Partners from the South Asian countries. There is also an Advisory Committee. Ashish Kothari is on the Advisory Committee. Kalpavriksh took on the India part of the study, with Neema Pathak coordinating.

Year of commencement: 2008

Year of completion: 2009

Total funds sanctioned: Rs. 29,66,974.46

Funding agency: SwedBio

Any reports submitted: A one page update was submitted to Swedbio for their annual report

Developments in the year

(Seema/Tas, pl. add details; check above info also)

Vb. Recognition and Support to Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in South Asia and Globally

Team: Neema Pathak and Ashish Kothari

Year of commencement: 2009 (March)

Year of completion: 2010 (May, extended to September)

Total funds sanctioned: \$29,250 (and additional \$10,000 for May-September 2010)

Funding agency: GEF Small Grants Programme (through UNDP); additional support by UNDP Bangladesh (mostly for use by partner in Bangladesh).

Reports submitted: Interim report

Developments in the year

This project builds on the one above, to consolidate the South Asia picture on ICCAs, but also to link to global networks and processes. It has involved a series of consultations and field visits in South Asian countries, and further debates, studies and on ground work on ICCAs, including the following:

1. Co-organising a consultation on CCAs in the NE India, Nawgaon, Assam on 7-9th May 2009, with Winrock India. This was followed by a field visit to Goalpara, Bodahapur/Hatigaon, Kakoijana and Chakrashila CCAs, and to community-based conservation initiatives in the Manas Tiger Reserve buffer area in Kokrajhar district (Bodo Territorial Council area). Neema, Ashish, Neeraj, Milind, Tasneem, Arshiya participated. As a follow up, similar meetings have been organized by the local groups for their own needs, KV has also helped a few groups in exploring sources of funding.

2. Co-organising a national consultation on CCAs in Nepal, with Forest Action, Nepal, on 3-4th August 2009. Ashish, Neema, Seema and Tasneem participated. A network of CCAs was formed during this meeting subsequently this network has grown to function as a support body for CCAs facing threats in 12 districts in Nepal.
3. Participation in and partial support to the regional workshop on CCA in South Asia, in Kathmandu, 5-7th August 2009 (organised under the above-mentioned project). This was followed by a field visit to Roopatal CCA in Nepal. Seema, Tasneem, Neema and Ashish participated. As a follow up to this Bangladesh UNDP expressed an interest in documenting and supporting CCAs in Sri Lanka. This was followed by a documentation and support programme in Chittagong Hill Tracts, a meeting with various CCAs their on issues related to CCAs and a National workshop.
4. Co-organising a workshop on CCAs in Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, on 9-11th November 2009, and a national workshop on CCAs in Bangladesh, in Dhaka, on 23-25th, both with Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, sponsored by UNDP. The programme also included field visits to Begenachary CCA in CHT, and Baikka Beel CCA.
5. Co-organising a workshop on CCAs in Rajasthan and Gujarat, in Jaipur, on 24-25th October 2009, with Foundation for Ecological Security, KRPAVIS, and SPWD. This was followed by a field trip to *orans* (sacred sites) in Alwar region. A follow up also included a more detailed discussions on conservation and livelihood issues with villagers from various villages within Sariska Tiger Reserve.
6. Supporting a detailed study on the CCAs of north-east India, and future course of action, conducted by Sudipto Chatterjee.
7. Participating in discussions and processes related to global database on CCAs, including inputs to format of ICCA Registry at UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre. This has resulted in a database that is currently being generated, a detailed discussions with many community representatives on free prior informed consent and a publication of a booklet on the process.
8. Preparing a report on CCAs and legal spaces in India, for a forthcoming book on Protected Area Laws by IUCN's Environment Law Centre.

In addition to these consultations and subsequent follow up with these sites, a database on CCAs in South Asian countries is being updated and an international analysis on legal recognition of CCAs in different continents is being carried out.

Kalpavriksh is also active as a co-coordinator of the global ICCA Consortium, a global network of indigenous and community organizations, NGOs, and institutions that are working on ICCAs (see www.iccaforum.org).