

## Towards Effective Local Biodiversity Governance in Kharpud, Bhomale, padharwadi (Bhimashankar region)

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On 17th February, the Kalpavriksh team (Mahesh and Esha) conducted a follow-up session with the Bhimashankar Kalpavriksh team (Shubhash, Ganesh, Suvarna, Parvata, Deepa, and Seema) to discuss the current status of the implementation of the Biodiversity Act and the functioning of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in Bhomale and Kharpud. As several BMCs are currently defunct, the meeting focused on understanding key challenges and exploring pathways for their revival.



*Discussion with team on BDA*

Participants identified major gaps, including limited awareness about BMCs and their mandate, lack of capacity to understand and carry out their roles and responsibilities, and insufficient technical and financial support for biodiversity documentation (such as preparing People's Biodiversity Registers). These challenges have hindered the effective functioning of BMCs.

The group also discussed how Community Forest Rights (CFR) committees could be leveraged to support the reconstitution of BMCs and strengthen local biodiversity governance. As a next step, a letter will be drafted to the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board seeking support to rejuvenate BMCs in the Bhimashankar region, where we are working.