

Partnership with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs



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UNDP is proud of its important partnership with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

UNDP's partnership with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs aims to support effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act thereby leading to increased recognition of individual and community rights for forest dwelling communities. Through the project 'Strengthening National Capacities in Tribal Areas', the partnership focuses on providing technical assistance to the Ministry for effectively

planning and monitoring Tribal sub-plans and the newly launched Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, a nation-wide strategic process aimed at improving the human development outcomes of tribal communities through ensuring better access to development infrastructure. The project also aims to facilitate inter-ministerial convergence for effective integration of the tribal agenda, particularly on the issues of health and livelihoods.

- The project started in 2013 and will end in 2017.
- The project works at the national level and at the state level (in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha) with a total budget of US\$ 3.20 million.

The partnership has supported key priorities

- **Supported** the regional consultations with state tribal departments to create awareness on the amended Forest Rights Rules (2012) and guidelines and development of state-specific action plans for implementation of the Forest Rights Act
- **Provided** technical assistance to establish the National Resource Centre on Forest Rights Act at Tribal Research Institute in Odisha for capacity building, research and innovation on tribal issues
- **Supported** capacity building on Forest Rights Act through development of Frequently Asked Questions on the Act, Training Module for government functionaries and organization of regional consultations on critical issues impeding the Act's implementation
- **Technical support** to prepare Guidelines for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and umbrella scheme for education of tribal children and scholarships
- **Legal counsel and advice** aimed at helping to uphold the principles of the Forest Rights Act and prevention of wrongful dispossession

- **Supported** research studies on Forest Rights Act which led to issuance of directives and guidelines to states to expedite Act implementation
- **Demonstrated** Community-led governance model on forest resource management for protection, conservation, regeneration and management of natural resources for sustainable forest-based livelihood
- **Technical support** to roll out of Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana in 10 Schedule V states with low human development indicators
- **Supported** knowledge sharing on global best practices in enabling tribal rights and entitlements through exposure visit of policy makers to Vietnam
- **Supported** cross learning amongst states with substantial tribal populations resulting in state grant proposals to the central government that are more responsive and contextualized to tribal needs

In addition, technical assistance is being provided to prepare the first-ever national Tribal Human Development Report on Inclusive Growth and development of a web-based monitoring system, an e-governance and accountability tool for reporting by states on Forest Rights Act implementation.

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