### Natural Resources Conservation Outside Protected Areas

**Millennium Development Goal:**
- Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

**Targets:**
- National efforts supported towards conservation and management of natural resources

**Relevant India Development Goal:**
- To conserve and enhance India’s natural resources by conservation of natural resources outside the protected areas while bringing necessary policy changes at various levels

### Background

Natural resources are an important source of livelihood and well-being for human population. Much emphasis has been placed on biodiversity conservation initiatives in areas designated as protected areas. However, for many centuries, rural communities in India have been conserving vast stretches of biodiversity across water and land outside these protected areas. These biodiversity rich areas are important for maintaining full ecosystem services and contribute significantly towards biodiversity conservation in the country. However, over the past few decades, human activities and climate change impacts have put increasing pressure on these spaces outside protected areas.

### Objectives

The project extends support to community-initiated conservation efforts outside the protected areas in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, including supporting and strengthening the capacity of communities to monitor and manage their resources in a sustainable manner and to derive equitable benefits from such resources. It will also initiate strategies towards formal recognition of such areas/practices, and their mainstreaming into the broader policy framework at the state and national levels. In addition, the project envisages stimulating necessary policy and legislative dialogues to bring such areas under the purview of state and national conservation strategies.

### Project Information

- **Area:** Environment and Energy
- **Budget:** US$ 1.18 million
- **Duration:** 2009-2012
- **Implementing Partner(s):**
  - Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India
- **Other Partner(s):**
  - State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Odisha
- **Location(s):**
  - Madhya Pradesh and Odisha
Results so far

- Project management units at national and state levels constituted
- Micro-plans for identified community conserved areas in Odisha and Madhya Pradesh prepared. This has enabled a more comprehensive understanding of biodiversity profile and livelihoods in these areas
- About 6,000 community conserved areas in Odisha and 250 such areas in Madhya Pradesh identified in partnership with local stakeholders. This has provided direction for interventions in these two states
- Livelihood generation and habitat development activities such as habitat improvement, basic infrastructure development, awareness generation programmes, health camps, rescue centres for wildlife, capacity building of stakeholders, studies, trainings in project states undertaken

Looking to the Future

- Strengthen the capacity of local communities to manage natural resources
- Demonstrate sustainable natural resource conservation outside the protected areas through pilot interventions in the selected areas of project states
- Support formal recognition of community conserved areas and their mainstreaming into broader policy framework at the state and national levels
- Support inclusion of community conserved areas and similar neglected areas into recognized conservation systems

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