

Narrative Report

2016-17

**Report of the project Scaling up participatory  
community mapping in India**



Vasundhara, Plot No  
1731/C , Dash Mohaptra  
Complex, Po-KIIT Campus,  
Bhubaneswar 751024, Ph:  
0674-2728884, 8885

# Final Narrative Report of the project Scaling up participatory community mapping in India

## Executive Summary

The watershed legislation of the Indian constitution, Schedule Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, has recognized the preexisting rights of the forest dwelling communities on the Community Forest Resource to protect, regenerate, conserve and manage within the customary boundary and access over customarily enjoyed forest land. As per an earlier estimate by the same group, India has potential to recognize 40 million hectares (nearly 100 million acres) of “customarily-held forest land” through “formal, legal recognition” under Forest Rights Act 2006 (Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act) in more than 0.17 million villages.

This provides a foundation stone for a new governance regime of forest and forest resources entitling the Gram Sabhas as the sole authority for the sustainable management of the bio-diversity ensuring chronic livelihood opportunities for those forest dwelling communities. Vasundhara with support from Right Resources Initiative has been working on such processes where rights of these communities will be ensured through a collective effort of the Gram Sabhas, administration and CSOs.

The objective of the project was to scale up the ongoing community mapping efforts to claim and recognize community land under forest right act and increase mapping activists’ political and technical capacity across India.

To execute the project we had engaged 2 project coordinator including 5 program officers, 6 program associates who worked in different positions and places looking at the requirement of the organization as per the annual planning. Apart from that the organization had engaged a training coordinator to look after the capacity building in the length and breadth of the state. A part time documentation officer was engaged to document the initiatives and case studies. There were two major sections of the project, one part of the project intervention looked after the scaling up the CFR initiatives across the state and another part focused on the facilitation of habitat rights, rights of the women, conversion of forest villages into revenue villages. The entire budgetary support allocated for 2015-16 was USD 149,538.42.

Persevering with the aim to expand the community forest rights recognition process within Odisha and outside, Vasundhara’s foremost focus was to build framework and methodologies for the effective implementation of the CFR rights. We have worked extensively on preparation of training module and claim format for community forest rights and habitat rights. The earlier format used for claim making has been revised to make it more simple and easy to understand for the facilitator as well as for the community members. The format is also reduced to 22 pages from its

earlier version of 32 pages which was more formatted and had least space for inclusion of community's perceptions, discussions in the records. We also developed training manual Govt. functionaries and Gram Sabha members for National Resource Centre established at SC and ST Research and Training Institute, Bhubaneswar under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, supported by UNDP. The training manual has two components where the the component I included the concept and definitions under the act, institutional mechanism, individual forest rights, habitat rights, rights of women, CFR governance and management, convergence. Component II exclusively includes the process of community forest resource right and mapping. . To scale up the mapping initiatives, Vasundhara worked in collaboration with various groups and organization like Maa Maninaga Jungle Surakshya Parishad and Jungle Surakshya Mahasangha (Nayagarh), Banani Cooperative and Zilla Jungle Manch (Deogarh), Banaja Banijya Mahila Sangha and Odisha Nari Samaj (Kuchinda), Odisha Adiwasi Manch (Ganjam), SACAL (Gajapati), Antaranga (Kandhamal), CIRTD (Sundergarh), Odisha Jungle Manch in Balaosre, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Gram Swaraj (Mayurbhanj), and CREFTDA (Mayurbhanj). The most important collaboration of Vasundhara for 2016-17 lies with the district administration of Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Ganjam and Gajapati. Vasundhara was involved extensively in capacity building of the govt. Functionaries, PRI members, CSOs, and community members within the state and outside like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. This year we collaborated with Tata Institute of Social Science to organize campus training programs on FRA and emerging issues for students, researchers, faculties and provided follow up exposure to various processes and issues on ground. Under the project support Vasundhara has organized training programs for the above constituent groups throughout state whereas many of the training and capacity building programs were supported by other donor agencies, organizations, govt. institutions as well as the state where RRI has provided the human resource support in execution of the programs. We were also engaged with different pressure groups like CSD, Odisha Jungle Munch and other people's group to address the various challenges crafted by Government and power groups. Apart from building capacity of the various constituent groups, we have also engaged in planning and strategy building with different groups and administration to expedite the process. As a result of the engagement with the district administration and follow up support, they have been able to mobilize resource from the state to facilitate the process.

Sl. No.	District	Year	Amount in Rs
1	Mayurbhanj	2016-17	43,64,000
2	Kandhamal	2016-17	14,18,200
3	Ganjam	2016-17	60,000

One of the highlighting factors of this year's work could be seen in the response that has been seen in Balodabazar district of Chhattisgarh which has been the state of violation and non recognition of rights on FRA. But local sangathan (Dalit Adiwasi Manch and Sajag) has proactively facilitated the process through dialogue and discussion with district administration with support from Vasundhara. This has

resulted mobilizing people in filing claims in more than 40 villages for CR and CFR as well as individual rights which are approved at DLC and titles are about to be conferred. This promulgates a scope of transferring the initiative to other parts of the state with support of the local sangathan and administration.

In the light of achievements of the ongoing project, 539 CR and CFR claims have been filed at different geographic spaces where a legitimate process has been followed till the reporting period. We have collaborated with three district administrations within the state to work collectively towards rights recognition. Because of the continuous engagement with the administration, collectively we have developed effective frameworks for the smooth implementation. The learning from these initiatives have been transmitted to different states where 4 exposure visits of government officials, CSOs, Peoples' Group of different states has been organized during this year and people have learnt from these initiatives to carry out them in their respective zones. We have documented the various learning from our initiatives and published those in the form learning documents that are widely used within the state and outside for building knowledge of the communities and facilitating actors on the process of rights recognition under FRA.

One of the key challenges which have hindered to achieve the desired outputs was the lack political mobilization at the grassroots level as well as within the administrative mechanism. A collective approach of the civil societies, peoples' group and resource organizations which could have created a larger movement for right recognition is mostly required to happen. A limiting factor which also affected the Vasundhara's outreach to larger network was the limited human resource which coerced us to certain geography.

The crucial opportunities for Vasundhara for 2017-18 would be to engage with larger network of facilitators who could translate the initiative to a larger geographical context within the state and outside. Vasundhara will focus to strengthen such network within the state by engaging with OJM, CSD, Adiwasi Groups, collective network of CSOs (i.e. Antaranga,). Apart from that we will focus on working with Prime Ministers' Rural Development Fellows (PMRDFs) who could be the potential actors in this process as they work with district administrations. We will be also be exploring our engagements with institutions like TISS and other educational institutes for knowledge development and dissemination. Our collective action with state working group will continue further this year to build more cohesive approach in scaling up FRA implementation and creating more capacities at different levels. Engagement with MoTA will be one of the major focuses for this year to avail better support from the state in implementation.

## **Brief Summary about the Intervention**

Vasundhara has been working on facilitation of the process for recognition of community forest resource rights and habitat rights of PVTG in Odisha and other parts of the country in collaboration with district administration and local CSOs. The major focus of this intervention is to i) develop participatory methods and tools for claiming CFR rights and for mapping the CFR areas, ii) build capacity of grassroots organizations and local activists to facilitate CFR and iii) engage with civil society organizations, resource agencies, people's forums and networks as well as implementing agencies of the government to scale up CFR recognition within the state and outside iv) facilitation of recognition of Habitat Rights of PVTGs in selected districts of Odisha v) Carry out the conversion process of forest villages to revenue villages vi) Developing the process for governance and management of community forest resources.

## **Objectives and outcomes of the project**

As outlined in the project narrative, the objective of the project is to expand ongoing efforts to facilitate CFR claims, mapping and recognition of rights and to build capacity of government and non government actors working on CFR in Odisha and other states.

## **Project Activities**

### **1. Community Forest Rights:**

#### **Workshop & Meeting**

Up scaling efforts involved series of training and workshops with local CSOs and government officials in the intervention districts, state level training programs of CSOs and tribal department officials, workshops for CSOs in other states, exposure visits. The process of CFR facilitation has been discussed in periodic meetings of the working group of leading resource organizations, support agencies and networks/federations of tribal organizations. In 2016-17, we have organized a national level workshop in collaboration with Oxfam on the achievement FRA in India since 2006. In continuation to the workshop at national level, state level workshop was organized on similar concept focusing on the achievement of FRA in last 10 years within the state where 72 organizations support the workshop. The workshop aimed to provide scope for sharing of experience and learning on initiatives on FRA by organizations, discussion on key issues and challenges, response from the government and possible ways to scale up collective efforts. 4 working group meetings were organized with the key state groups on preparations of strategies and actions for scaling up the implementation process where Vasundhara, FES, OJM, NCAS, Action Aid, CSD, RCDC, CWS were the core members of the working group. We also organized a partners meet where the collaborators of Vasundhara participated to share the learning from their own field areas and prepare the plan of action for 2017.

### Training Programs:

About 53 training programs were conducted throughout the state as well as outside. The training programs conducted for various functionaries including govt. officials, community level cadres, CSOs representatives, PRI members with the objective to build capacities at different levels to carry out the process on ground. Training module and designs were made to carry out training programs throughout the year. Resources were mobilized from government, CSOs and communities to support the training programs. In fact it was encouraging to see where some of the communities collectively mobilized resources to support the training programs for their local youth and capacitated them to facilitate the CFR claim process at village level. Tribal Department of Odisha under the coordination support of SCSTRTI mobilized resources for the district level campus training program for officers. State level training cum orientation programs were conducted for ToTs of 13 scheduled districts of Odisha which was supported by SCSTRTI. The training program included the in-house orientation act and rules FRA. As a part of Vasundhara's networking and scaling up CFR recognition and mapping process in other parts of the country training program was facilitated in Balodabazar for Dalit Adiwasi Manch. Dalit Adiwasi Manch with support of SAJAG is working Balodabazar and Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh. The operational area of Dalit Adiwasi Manch falls in Sonakhan area which holds a gold reserve and also surrounded with Barnayapara Sanctuary. The communities in this region are very vulnerable to eviction both for keeping the sanctuary inviolate as well as for extraction of gold. Within this difficult scenario both the organization collectively could mobilize communities to file their claims and pressurized the administration to support the communities. As mapping of the community forest resource boundary is a major requirement in Odisha and Chhattisgarh as major chunk of community forest land falls outside of revenue boundary, we have carried out 7 training programs on mapping of community forest resources using GPS in Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

The training programs hold significant importance in building trained cadres at different levels which also included women.

Typology of Training Program	Number of Training Program	Number of Female Participants	Total Participants
National Level	6	76	179
State Level	8	130	419
District Level	8	156	486
Block Level	22	338	1038
GP Level	9	299	700

### Follow up and Support

Regular follow up and support to the various actors of the project has led to successful execution of the activities planned for this year. We have provided support to the district administration of Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal Ganjam, Keunjhar

and Gajapati for this year. Because of the follow up support, Mayurbhanj district administration has led to recognition of CFR rights as well as extending support through map generation hubs which is now catering the need of final map generation in the district where till date 391 final CFR maps have been produced. The administration has engaged additional human resource to ITDA to perform activities for claim filing, consolidate claims, coordinate with forest and revenue department and prepare titles for DLC for approval . As per the report by Mar 2017, 191 CR and CFR titles have been conferred to the Gram Sabhas along with final CFR maps. . As CFR constitutes a separate category of forest which will be governed and managed by Gram Sabhas, FD in the DLC meeting discussed to prepare the land use map of forest locating the CFR areas of different villages whose rights have been conferred which forest department will include in their records.

In Kandhamal, the DLC has extended support to the CFR process in the Antaranga area where subsequent training programs have been completed which would be followed up with ground level facilitation for claiming and mapping of CFR rights. With the collective effort of district administration, Antaranga and Vasundhara, 400 CFR claims are aimed to be filed by gram sabhas in 2017. In 2016 SDLC, Baliguda have approved 41 CFR claims from different blocks which were facilitated by Antaranga. In Jamujhari panchayat of Phulbani sub-division, 22 CFR claims have been approved and titles are soon to be conferred with final CFR maps.

In Gajapati, as part of collaboration with the district administration, Vasundhara has been working in R. Udayagiri block where 4 panchayats and 47 villages have filed claims for recognition of CR and CFR. As result of the follow up and support local administration SACAL has initiated the claim filing process in more than 50 villages in the current project period and completed the filing of claims for CR and CFR in 110 villages in total including the claims which were initiated earlier.

In Ganjam, with the collective effort of district administration and Odisha Adiwasi Manch, 91 villages have filed claims for CR and CFR which are submitted to SDLC. With the resource support of district administration and knowledge and technical support from Vasundhara, many cadres were trained on claim filing process out of which 10 cadres from Odisha Adiwasi Manch were engaged with Gram Sabhas for filing of claims in 3 tribal concentrated blocks of the district.

Apart from our engagement with district administration and CSOs in some of the district, we also provide knowledge and resource support to local CSOs and sangathans in other districts such as Cooperative unions in Deogarh and Sambalpur, CIRTID in Sundergarh, ZJM in Deogarh, OJM in Mayurbhanj, Balasore, and Cuttack.

## **Reports**

Vasundhara has produced reports of the major training programs, workshops, meetings, studies and other important activities which have been accomplished in the current project period and holds significant importance to the entire intervention. The reports cover the objective of the events, major discussions and activities and lastly it will impact our work in the coming days. The reports are also

shared with the participants to keep track of the things being discussed in the meetings.

### **Manuals and information materials**

Vasundhara, in this year has extensively worked on the learning material development, manuals for the process. Vasundhara has developed Community Rights and Community Forest Resource Right manual for the National Resource Centre established under SCSTRTI, Odisha which is working as technical resource agency to support different states, districts and agencies working on FRA. We also prepare training manual on FRA for Ekta Parishad. A learning document was prepared which highlighted the successful implementation of FRA in Similipal Tiger Reserve with the collective effort from communities in Similipal, CSOs, district administration and Vasundhara. This document would be helpful for administrations, CSOs and practitioners to learn from the initiative of Similipal.

### **2. Habitat Rights of PVTGs:**

Determination of habitat rights and mapping using GIS is very crucial in the context of Odisha and in many other states as the PVTGs are restricted to the Micro plan project area but there are many other PVTG villages which are left behind and not included inside the micro plan, like for example with the Hill Khadia PVTG the Micro Plan project "Hill Khadia and Mankirdia development Organization" includes only 16 villages in two blocks however the pilot study and mapping reveals the extent of the community is spread over 179 villages in 17 blocks which is also verified during the traditional leaders consultation. Following key activities have been undertaken as a part of the initiative to facilitate determination of habitat rights and claim making.

#### **Traditional Leaders Consultation**

As mentioned under Rule 12B (1) of the Forest Rights Act "*the district level committee shall ensure that all PVTGs receive habitat rights, in consultation with the concerned traditional institutions*". The habitat rights recognition process requires consultation with the traditional leaders before the claims are filled at the Gram Sabha level however across India very few such consultations have been organized by the DLCs in the PVTG areas.

The engagement of Vasundhara with DLCs in the districts of Odisha has produced very positive results and the DLCs are coming forward and showing interest in facilitating the habitat rights recognition process. The DLCs of Kandhamal, Malkangiri and Mayurbhanj have set examples by organizing series of consultations with the traditional leaders of the four PVTGs the Kutia Kondh, Bonda, Hill Khadia, Lodha & Mankirdia. However there are also instances where the DLC has not shown any such interest, in such a situation Vasundhara has tried to get involved with the traditional leaders and local level organization to organize such consultations like in the case of Paudi Bhuiya PVTG in Sundargarh district where the traditional leaders consultation was organized with support from Paudi Bhuiya Samaj and Jeevan Vikash.

In the last one year the traditional leaders' consultations have been completed with 6 PVTG groups like Mankirdia, Hill Khadia, Lodha, Paodi Bhuyan, Kutia Kondh and Bonda in Odisha spread across 4 districts. The consultations have been used to create awareness on the provision of Habitat Right among the community and to consult with the traditional leaders to determine the nature and extent of habitat with documentation and identification of their settlements, forest resources dependency, cultural places and their various clan group and also to share the post consultation process of habitat rights claims filing before the concerned Gram Sabhas.

i. Identification of PVTG villages

One of the most important aspect in the process of recognition of habitat rights is the identification of the all PVTG villages of the concerned community because this data is not available from any secondary sources and the best way to get this information is during the traditional leaders consultations, Vasundhara so far completed this identification process with 6 PVTGs spread across 4 districts i.e. Bonda in Malkangiri, Kutia Kondh in Kandhamal, Hill Khadia, Mankirdia, Lodha in Mayurbhanj, Paodi Bhuyan in Sundergarh.

ii. Meeting/workshops with all stakeholders under the habitat rights recognition process

It is utmost important that the understating and clarity regarding the habitat rights recognition process need to be built among the various stakeholders (DLC members, forest dept. officials, Revenue dept. officials, ITDA, Tradition leaders, Local NGOs, PRI members) from the beginning of the process then only the post claim process of verification and approval process of the claim will be made hurdle free.

iii. Training and capacity building of the local level community based organization and NGOs to facilitate the habitat rights claims with the concerned PVTGs. We have organized training program for Porevartan in Malkangiri, Jeevan Vikash in Sundergarh, Micro Project officers, RI, Forest Officials in Mayurbhanj.

The recognition of habitat rights is an extensive, time consuming and also expensive process because the recognition process is still a gray area for most of the facilitating organizations and individuals working with PVTGs, as till date MoTA has not released any such guideline, so it become difficult to scale up the process with all other PVTG groups within and also outside Odisha, it become important to identify the Community based organizations and NGOs workings with the PVTG groups and enhance their capacity by providing them training and regular technical support, Vasundhara has also involved in such process and trying to reach out the recognition process with as many PVTGs.

### 3. Community Forest Resources Management

CFR governance and management through direct and collaborative ways are made in selected areas of the districts of Mayurbhanj (Simplipal Tiger Reserve), Kandhmal, Nayagarh (Community forest management areas), Deogarh, Sambalpur, etc. Consultation at the district and state level engaging primarily with the CFM groups and federations to develop common understanding and approach on CFR management has been made. Community has been started to assert their rights for examples opposition of illegal intervention of sacred grove management by FD, plantation of teak and nilgiri in CFR area etc

### 4. Women & FRA:

#### **Intervention on Women & FRA in Nayagarh**

Since its inception in 1990s, Vasundhara has been working in Nayagarh particularly Ranpur on community-forest protection initiative. Vasundhara has played a crucial role to strengthen and support the local federation of forest protecting groups (Maa Maninag Jungle Surakhya Parishad and central women committee) and later on by facilitating implementation of FRA along with the CWC in Bandhamunda GP. This process has opened up space for the women who are now actively engaged in forest protection and CFR initiatives in Ranpur. While reaching out to different areas for FRA implementation we could see that women were not much aware regarding the rights conferred under FRA which they should assert on their own. With the set of ongoing activities for ensuring and strengthening women's participation in asserting their rights over the forest while making the FRA implementation process a more gender-inclusive, G.P level training programs on FRA especially for women were planned. 3 G.Ps. namely Bandhamunda, Pachapalli and Khairapalli of Ranpur blocks were identified for the carrying out the training programs as it was seen that in the selected G.P.s, women faced a lot of issues regarding to their access to forest and resource extraction, discontinuation in forest protection, restrictions by Forest Departments and ransacking by timber mafias etc. Also a state level training program for the identified women leaders who plays influential role in community level on different aspects of forest was organized to build their capacity of FRA.

#### **Impact of training programs:**

In GP level training programs as many as hundreds of women took active participation and unequivocally shared their issues. One of the major impact that took place due to Vasundhara continuous engagement and follow up as at Bandhamunda G.P falling with the ambit of Mal Reserve Forest area stretching across 25787 acres approximately. As many as 10-12 villages of Bandhamunda G.P. asserted their rights after they knew about their legal rights under FRA and once again taking up the forest protection and women

were the front runners in taking the initiative forward though most of them had VSS which are now completely dysfunctional. The villages have filed claims over their community forest resources. 4-5 women of various villages took the lead for grounding of the initiative. During the conversation all most all the women mentioned about the same issue where they were prohibited by the Forest Officials time and again when they go to the forests for collecting fuel woods or siali leaves which constitute their source of income and the officials also impeded them to take a single piece of log which they require to build or repair their kutchcha houses. Women go on patrolling the forest (*Thengapalli*) in the day time and the men go during the night time. Almost all the villages have filled for CFR and are gradually asserting their rights.

### **5. Conversion of Forest Village into Revenue Village**

Conversion of forest villages into revenue village is major a area of attention to be focused under FRA as Odisha holds 36 forest villages but the number will be much more on ground if we take unsurveyed villages, hamlets and forest settlements into account. After FRA come into being 2006 and the amended guidelines were issued in 2013, provisions are now available that can facilitate the conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, especially under sections 3(1)h, . A very clear and potentially effective process has been laid down for the same by the FRA, 2006. But till now not a single forest village in Odisha has been converted into a revenue village in the state under the enabling provisions of FRA. Because of this, over 65 years after Independence, residents of 'forest villages' and other settlements and unsurveyed villages in forests remain deprived of access to most development programmes due to the land on which these are located continuing to be recorded as 'forest'. Vasundhara with support from local sangathans have initiated the conversion process in some of the selected district. In Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal and Ganjam, district administration has extended support for this whereas RCDC facilitated the field level process in the first district mentioned before.

## List of Project Accomplishment

Sl No.	Specific Part of the Activity	Indicators	Desired Results	Achieved Results
<b>1</b>	<b>Activity 1: Scaling up CFR Claims and Mapping Process</b>			
	Training, learning workshops and exposure visits	Training, learning workshops and exposure visits, workshops and exposure visits.	Trained cadres engaged in facilitation of claims and support to local organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capacity Building of FRC members, local cadres, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Civil Society Organisations and Peoples networks:</b> During the reporting period a <b>total of 53 training programs</b> were organised in Odisha and outside at different levels i.e. national (6), state (8), district (8), block (22), G.P. (9). These programs also included <b>sensitization cum orientation program on the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and rules for Government Officials</b> i.e. Forest, Revenue and tribal department officials etc, were organised by State Nodal Agency of Odisha under the active coordination of SCSTRTI. This year, very importantly, TISS carried out training programs in all its campuses (Mumbai, Tuljapur, Hyderabad, Gauhati) for researchers, students and faculties..</li> <li>• <b>Cross Learning:</b> In order to build capacity of Civil Society organisations and Frontline Government officials on the Forest Rights Act, 2006, especially on community based mapping, during reporting period 6 exposure visits were facilitated by the organisation in collaboration with members of CFRla group. Participants from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh went for exposure on various initiatives of Vasundhara to different field areas. SCSTRTI also</li> </ul>

				<p>organized an exposure visit for govt. officials of different states to Mayurbhanj to learn initiatives which was facilitated by Vasundhara. Apart from this we have also facilitated many exposure programs for researchers from academics, media and others to different area on the issues of violations, initiatives and key learning.</p>
2	Meetings and consultations	6 state level meetings and workshops	Collective planning, monitoring	<p><b>State Level Working Group:</b> In Odisha, a process has been initiated to form State Level Working Group. Till end of Mar 2017 four round table meeting have been organised with representatives from key CSOs, i.e. NCAS-Odisha, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Regional Centre for Development and Co-operation (RCDC), ACTION AID, Odisha Jungle Manch (OJM)and CSD-Odisha Chapter. A common action plan and key interventions have been discussed with the working group.</p> <p><b>National Level Working Group:</b> There is a constant engagement with the national level process through the CFR learning and advocacy group and other major networks. The CFR LA group has met and discussed on the CFR process, possibilities of upscaling and challenges.</p> <p><b>National Level Consultation on FRA:</b> Vasundhara organized a national level consultation on 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FRAwith support from other institution like TISS, OXFAM and Kalpabriksh. . The conference was proposed in the context to reflect on the achievement of forest rights act 2006 in last 10 years in India. A report was also released on the promise and performance of FRA in last 10 years..</p> <p><b>State Level Consultation on FRA:</b></p>

				<p>Vasundhara organized one state level consultation on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of forest right act on a similar context as in the national consultation in Bhubaneswar. The purpose of the consultation was to discuss on the experience of rights recognition in Odisha in last 10 years as well as to discuss collective strategies to scale up the process. The consultation was supported by 72 CSOs and sangathans of the state where major contributors were Action Aid, FES, CPF, RCDC, IPF.</p>
3	Support to local CBOs or groups involved in facilitation of CFR	800 CFR claims and maps, CFR titles and maps, CFR titles	Recognition of rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per the proposal, support has been provided to civil society organizations to Porevartan in Malkangiri, SACAL, in Gajapati, Odisha Adiwasi Manch in Ganjam, Antaranga in Kandhamal, CIRTD and Jeevan Vikash in Sundergarh, OJM in Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Cuttack, Zilla Jangle Manch in Deogarh, Banabasi Chetna Mandal in Keonjhar, CREFTDA and Gram Swaraj in Mayurbhanj, Sajag in Chhattisgarh. We also provided support to District Administration Mayurbhanj, Gajapati, Ganjam and Kandhamal for facilitation of claim and mapping of CFR . Besides, support has been provided to Nawarangpur and Keonjhar District Administration as a part of upscaling CFR process in Odisha which was extended in later part of the project.</li> <li>Till end of Feb 2017, a total of 539 CFR claims and one habitat rights claim of Bonda (Malkangiri) of 55 villages and paodi bhuyan in one pidha (Battisbar pidha) of 13 villages have been filed by Gram Sabhas.187 titles have been conferred by District Level Committee, Mayurbhanj and 22</li> </ul>

				<p>titles by Kandhamal which will be distributed very soon in a ministerial programs. A total of 237789.56 acres of forest land has been approved by DLCs of Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj till February for 392 CFR claims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
--	--	--	--	---

### Activity 2: Facilitation of Habit Rights of Particularly Vulnerable Group

1	Facilitation of claim making and Mapping of habitat rights of PVTGs	5 collective claims on habitat rights	Recognition of habitat rights of PVTGs	<p>Habitat Rights claims have been prepared showing the extent and rights of the habitat area of three PVTGs which were done during the traditional leaders consultation and claim making process and we have focused on three PVTGs from three districts namely Malkangiri, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj for Bonda, Paodi Bhuyan and Mankirdia respectively. Apart from that we have also reached out the habitat rights claim facilitation process with three more PVTGs in Odisha in Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj district.</p> <p>During the reporting period following activities were undertaken:</p> <p><b>PVTG In Mayurbhanj:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaboration with DLC:</b> Vasundhara has collaborated with District Administration of Mayurbhanj for facilitation of habitat rights of Hill Khadia, Mankirdia and Lodha community. As a part of process DLC of Mayurbhanj has organised an all stakeholder workshop meeting and invited Revenue dept. officials, Forest dept. officials, ITDA officials, PRI members, Traditional Leaders and the objective of the meeting workshop is to provide training on habitat rights and its</li> </ul>
---	---	---------------------------------------	--	--

				<p>process and also to build common consensus among the various stakeholders from the beginning of the process ,Vasundhara has provided the training and also presented the process that has been going on in Kandhamal district of Odisha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review of Secondary literatures and Reports:</b> The team engaged in facilitation of habitat rights have prepared a draft report on PVTG Communities based on the available secondary literatures and reports to get a fair idea about socio-culture and economic aspects and the extent of their habitat..</li> <li>• <b>Pilot Study:</b> A pilot study was carried out with all the three PVTG communities to understand their concept about the habitat rights and also to develop maps showing their extent of habitat using GIS This pilot study was carried out in collaboration with CREFTDA &amp; Gram Swaraj, a local CSO.</li> <li>• <b>Action Plan:</b> Action plan for facilitation of habitat right has been prepared and shared with District Administration of Mayurbhanj and got approval.</li> <li>• <b>Procurement of Cadastral maps and Topo-sheets:</b> Based on the preliminary discussion with PVTG community, a tentative habitat map has been generated and based on the sketch map and using GIS to show the extent of</li> </ul>
--	--	--	--	--

				<p>their habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultation with Traditional Leaders:</b> While Initiating the claim making process fifteen number of traditional leaders consultation has been carried out with the three PVTG communities in collaboration with the district administration</li> <li>• <b>Claims for Habitat Rights</b> Out of the three PVTGs in Mayurbhanj, we supported the district administration to prepare claims for Mankirdia which are spread across the Similipal in 9 villages. The claim of 9 villages have been approved in DLC where draft titles also prepared by DLC with support from Vasundhara.</li> </ul> <p><b>Paudi Bhuiyan PVTG in Sundergarh District:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Engagement with local organization:</b> As mentioned earlier Vasundhara has collaborated with Jeevan Vikash and Paudi Bhuiya Samaj for facilitation of habitat rights.</li> <li>• <b>Training and Awareness:</b> One Training cum sensitization workshop has been organised at Jeevan Vikash campus where traditional leaders of Paudi Bhuyan and staffs of Jeevan Vikash participated. In this training program a tentative list of traditional leaders was prepared.</li> <li>• <b>Consultation with Traditional Leaders:</b> As a part of process first consultation with the traditional leaders of Paudi</li> </ul>
--	--	--	--	--

				<p>Bhuiyan has been organised and draft action plan prepared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preparation of habitat Map:</b> Based on the consultation findings and pilot study a tentative habitat map has also been prepared showing the seven different clan territory (locally called as pidha), using cadestrial maps, topo-sheet and GIS.</li> <li>• <b>Claims for Habitat Rights</b> Out of the 7 pidha of Paodi Bhuyan in the Khandadhar hills, Battisbar pidha has submitted its habitat rights claims which was carried with active support from Jeevan Vikash and knowledge support from Vasundhara.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bonda PVTG in Malkangiri</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Engagement with administration and local organization:</b> As mentioned earlier Vasundhara has collaborated with Porevatyan for facilitation of habitat rights of Bonda in Bonda Ghati. We also had a formal discussion with district collector and PA ITDA to extend support from district administration where ITDA has provided necessary support during filing of claims.</li> <li>• <b>Training and Awareness:</b> One Training cum sensitization workshop has been organised at Porevartan campus where local cadres and staffs of Porevartan participated. In this training program a tentative list of villages and traditional leaders was prepared and all the participants were trained on</li> </ul>
--	--	--	--	---

				<p>procedures of filing habitat rights claims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Claims for Habitat Rights</b> As per the process claims for Habitat Rights of Bonda has been prepared along with the habitat maps through traditional leaders consultation and gram sabha and has been submitted to SDLC for approval.</li> </ul>
2	State level consultation with PVTG group	1 state level meeting with organizations working with PVTGs and the tribal dept	Sharing of learning on habitat rights for replication in other PVTG area	This year we merged this program with state level consultation on forest rights, promise and performance of FRA in last 10 years FRA where many traditional leaders and youths from different PVTGs were invited to share the learning and issues.
3	National consultation on habitat right	1 national level meeting with groups working with PVTGs and the ministry of tribal affairs	Sharing of learning of habitat rights claim facilitation for replication and upscaling in other PTVG areas	The national consultation for PVTGs wasn't organized separately this year where as it was joined together with national consultation on FRA organized by CFR LA group on the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of FRA; its promises and performance. In the report released on this occasion contains a achievement of the state in recognition of habitat rights.
<b>OUTCOME 3: CFR management process up scaled in Odisha</b>				
1	OUTCOME 3: CFR management process up scaled in Odisha Facilitation of CFR	At least 50 CFR management plans in the intervention districts	CFR management plans exercised by the gram sabhas and integrated in the govt plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CFR governance and management process initiated in about 100 villages</li> <li>• CFR conservation and management committee constituted 90 villages</li> <li>• 85 villages approved their CFR conservation and management plan</li> <li>• 21 CFR management plans in</li> </ul>

	management plans			<p>Mayurbhanj shared with district administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similipal authority accepting Transit permit given by Gramsabhas</li> <li>• 2 Gramsabhas successfully opposed Sacred grove development by FD</li> <li>• Plantation of teak and nilgiri opposed by Gramsabha (Nawana, Pahadpur)</li> <li>• Development of CFR management plan as part of self assertion process in Sundargarh</li> <li>• GSs in Deogarh opposed VSS and AJY</li> <li>• Tarkabahali Gramsabha got transit permit book from FD</li> </ul>
2	State level meeting and workshop with CFM groups	At least 3 meeting	Learning from CFR management process shared and strategies worked out for up scaling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CFM Group consultations were undertaken at Ranpur, Nayagarh in collaboration with MMJSP and at Deogarh in collaboration with Jilla Jungle Mancha</li> <li>• Training and consultation with OJM cadre is completed in order to accelerate CFR conservation and management process after claim making process of CFR.</li> </ul>
3	National level meeting and consultation on CFR governance and management	1 national level consultation	Learning from CFR management from Odisha and other states shared and strategies worked out for up scaling	As part of the national level CFR learning and advocacy process, governance and management of CFRs in India, experiences from ground in India were a major part of the discussion in the national consultation which was organized in Dec 2016 on the occasion of 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of FRA, promise and performance.
<b>OUTCOME 4 : Women groups organized and trained on CFR</b>				
1	Training and workshop	1 state level training program	Women members from the community	Vasundhara organized one state level training for women leaders and facilitators in CYSD, Bhubaneswar where more than 40 participants came

		and at least 3 district level training progra	from the intervention districts trained in FRA/CFR process and engaged in the claim process	to enhance their capacity on provision and rules of FRA and facilitation of claim filing on ground. As a result of that it has created scope for claims filing in different areas where these people are involved.
--	--	---	---	--

**OUTCOME 5 : Forest village conversion initiated in the intervention districts**

1	Meeting and workshops with district administration and local CSO	At least 3 district level meetings /consultation with members from the forest villages, PRI members, local CSOs and district administration	Instructions from the DLCs to initiate conversion proceedings	We have discussions with district administration of Nayagarh, Nawarangpur, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh, Kandhamal, Ganjam and Gajapati for initiation of conversion process in all forest villages. As a result of this district administration of Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj has issued letters to officials and PRI members to initiate conversion process. Till now 4, 6 and 2 numbers of applications from Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal and Nayagarh have been received by SDLC. In Mayurbhanj field facilitation was done by RCDC where Vasundhara provided the knowledge support.
2	Facilitation of claim making and conversion process in forest villages	Filing of claims and gram sabhas resolutions in select forest villages in 3 districts	Forest villages converted into revenue villages	We facilitated claim making process in Ganjam, Kandhamal and Nayagarh with support from local communities and organizations. 12, 6 and 2 numbers of claims have been submitted along with conversion proceedings in Ganjam, Kandhamal and Nayagarh district respectively. In Mayurbhanj, 4 numbers of forest villages have submitted their claims with support of RCDC which are now at DLC level.

## **1. Brief Description of project contribution on**

### **I. How poverty reduced in forested areas**

Though the time span to reveal on a substantive change in life style and livelihood is little less, as people have started to understand their rights and is exercising the authority gradually. But certainly it has laid down a foundation stone for the establishment of new way of governing forest and resource extraction in sustainable manner for a enriched livelihood. In Similipal Biosphere reserve local communities are now able to sell Non-timber forest products using their rights which were restricted since declaration of the tiger reserve. They are able to sell their products in the local markets as well as using for their daily consumption. Earlier there was little possibility of developmental activities inside a protected area which have hindered them from availing basic developmental facilities such as health, education etc. After the recognition of rights, they are getting access to all government schemes such as land development, plantation, micro watershed, transportation and communication, market linkage, health facilities, horticulture and many more. These programs have certainly started changing their lives and livelihoods. Similar changes are observed in other districts where communities have been involved in protection of the forest and resource which has now started showing results on how rights could be translated to sustainable livelihood. Our effort in last year build capacities many CSOs, Sangathans and youth groups in different geographies that they are extending the knowledge support to communities in different aspects of forest rights. Communities are now capable to file claims, challenge the state against many kinds imposed violations and initiating restoration of traditional practices to conserve and manage community forest resources. To cite the above, three examples could be taken here; one from Antaranga initiative from Kandhamal district where more than 120 youth clubs have been trained by Vasundhaara with coordination and support from Antaranga (an collective of organizations), in Ganjam local adiwasi group have been capacitated to facilitate various processes in tribal populated villages and in Sundergarh local CSO and sangathan have started self assertion of rights due to no response from the district administration. These are some of the learning which boost our knowledge on how build ground level capacity to reach out unreached areas and to ensure that the communities capacitated enough to assert their rights and adopt sustainable practices for conservation and management of community forest resources.

### **II. Increase in forest land under local ownership and administration**

The rights over common forest land have now transferred control over forest land to the Gram Sabha. . Result of this paradigm shift could be visible where rights have been already recognized over land. For example, in Odisha villages have got rights over community forest resources over acumulative of 237789.56 acres forest land has been approved by DLC for recognition of rights for 392 claims over community forest resources.. Under the law and new guidelines issued by MoTA, the these forest lands will no more treated as reserve forest as a legal status whereas they will treated as separate category as 'CFR' in the Records of Rights. This signifies the shift in land governance from state to the Gram Sabhas.

## **2. Collaborative initiative with the district administrations**

### **I. District Administration, Mayurbhanj**

As a result of capacity building program on the application of GPS/GIS technology on CFR recognition process resulted in 139 numbers trained revenue officials to facilitate the GPS mapping process of CFR areas in the tehsils of Mayurbhanj, 424 CFR areas have been mapped out of which more than 400 final CFR maps have been prepared by the FRA cells in ITDA. DLC has approved 195 CR and CFR claims and conferred titles to those villages. . The district administration has also initiated the recognition of habitat rights of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) with Lodha, Hill Khadia and Mankirdia with technical support and follow up from Vasundhara. Out of the three PVTGs, Mankirdias have submitted their claims from 9 PVTGs villages to administration where their claims have been approved in DLC.

### **II. District Administration in Kandhamal**

Continuous support and involvement with administrative officials of Kandhamal has been the enabling factor for initiation of CFR process in in more 50 villages of Antaranga and current year it is expected to reach to 400 villages. Around 12 numbers of training programs have been completed for the NGOs of Antaranga and 2 training programs for district officials who will support the Gram Sabhas for filing claims and mapping on their CFR areas.

### **III. District Administration of Gajapati**

Vasundhara has piloted the CR and CFR recognition process in R. Udayagiri block and with support from SACAL in Mohana block of Gajapati in collaboration with administration . The support provided to the administration, PRI members and local CSO has resulted the initiation CR and CFR process where 47 villages in R. Udaygiri and 110 villages in Mohana has filed their CR and CFR claims before SDLC including the mapping of their CFR areas in some of the villages.

### **IV. District Administration of Ganjam**

Vasundhara has piloted the CR and CFR recognition process in Chhatrapur sub-division of Ganjam in collaboration with administration and Odisha Adiwasi Manch. The support provided to the administration, PRI members and OAM has resulted the initiation CR and CFR process in 100 villages out which 90 villages has filed their CR and CFR claims before SDLC including the mapping of their CFR areas.

### **3. Key lessons learned, constraints and good practices**

#### **a. Locally, nationally, and/or internationally**

In the local context, there has been many organization, community leaders, and movement groups who need a platform within the process where they could share their learning and issues and could build their understanding on the process to carry out the process at the community level. To scale up the process, integrated approach of civil society organizations and administration is necessarily required. More simplification in the community forest resource mapping methodology needs to be devised to expedite the mapping process. Strengthening and building understanding and coordination of civil society networks is outmost necessary to sensitize community and creating demand within the community for their rights.

In the national context, a national registry needs to be developed on Forest Right Act. A larger network of CSOs, campaign groups, and resource agencies need to be developed for scaling up of the process.

b. In the international context there is a need to learn lessons of similar forest tenure reforms and upscaling initiatives from other countries like Mexico and Indonesia. As a coalition, RRI has worked as a knowledge partner and been flexible enough in terms of completion of planned activities which has helped Vasundhara to work and produce effectively. RRI has also given scope to participate in international workshop on community right which gives insight to our process and understanding and adopt such mechanism to fine tune its own approach.

c. Organizing workshops at the national and state level has given a scope to reach at the larger audience and come across the issues and gaps within process. It has helped to plan Vasundhara's approach under FRA in a larger context apart from its own intervention areas within the project.

d. Vasundhara's future approach will be to design more simplified and participatory methods community forest resource claims and mapping with less time and cost involvement which will ensure community's control over the process and technology involved. The organization will focus largely on network of civil society organizations, people's forums, resource agencies and building their capacity and understanding for the scaling up of the process within the state and nation.