



VASUNDHARA

THE YEAR GONE BY

— 2021-2022





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vasundhara has worked extensively during the last year, to ensure the security of tribal communities. The organisation through its advocacy and research helped the tribal communities gain fair prices for the Minor Forest Produce that they collect.

MFP's or NTFPs are a key source of income for them and is of huge significance in the current scenario as it helps them tide over the economic shock caused by the pandemic.

Vasundhara has extensively worked with women in the past year to create leaders from among the community to lead the MFP collective. The women then can create value for themselves through market linkages with corporates and government organisations who procure the MFP's.

Vasundhara works with the state and central governments to shed light on the plights of the tribal communities so that favourable policies are formed for their development and livelihood security.

Vasundhara works to create a launchpad for the primary gatherers to

meaningfully engage with the market and that too on their own terms to go for aggregation, value addition and finding out an alternative market where they have the bargaining power.

The other key activity of Vasundhara is its work with communities to help them secure rights over customary land held by them, through the Forest Rights Act. Vasundhara facilitates the process of filing the claims. After the rights have been accorded, Vasundhara helps the rights holders in preparing and executing the Community Forest Rights Management Plan, so that the community can manage the forests and harvest the MFP's in a sustainable manner. Vasundhara works with partner organizations across Odisha to spread awareness and facilitate the implementation of the forest rights act.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ABOUT VASUNDHARA

Vasundhara also engages with communities and the forest departments to prevent forest management that solely has commercial interests, like plantations of native and nonnative species. Through its knowledge of traditional management practices and biodiversity conservation, Vasundhara has stopped these activities in many places.

Mission

Sustainable development, emphasizing the empowerment of rural poor, social justice, and equity.



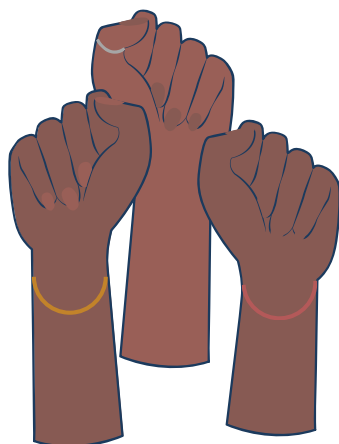
Vasundhara is an Action Research & Policy Advocacy Organisation working on Natural Resources Governance, Conservation, and Sustainable Livelihoods. Vasundhara was founded in 1991 and got registered in 1992 as a society under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. We began with a focus to support and strengthen self-initiated community forestry groups - conserving and managing community forests in the state of Odisha.

Our constant efforts have highlighted the critical role forests play in sustaining rural livelihoods. Our focus has been to facilitate the reflection of Livelihood Interests of forest-dependent communities. - especially women - in government policies and also to create an environment in which the primary owners and users of forests are economically and politically

empowered to have exclusive control over their lives and livelihoods.

Over the years, our work with communities has expanded to have a greater focus on Rights of Tribal and other Forest Dependent Communities on Community Forest Rights as envisaged under "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" - usually referred to as the 'Forest Rights Act. We have also focused on assessing the impact of community conservation initiatives on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Access and control of women over land, forests, other natural resources, and livelihoods based on them is at the center of all our interventions. Rights of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups to their Natural Resource Habitats and their ancestral land is another core focus of our work.

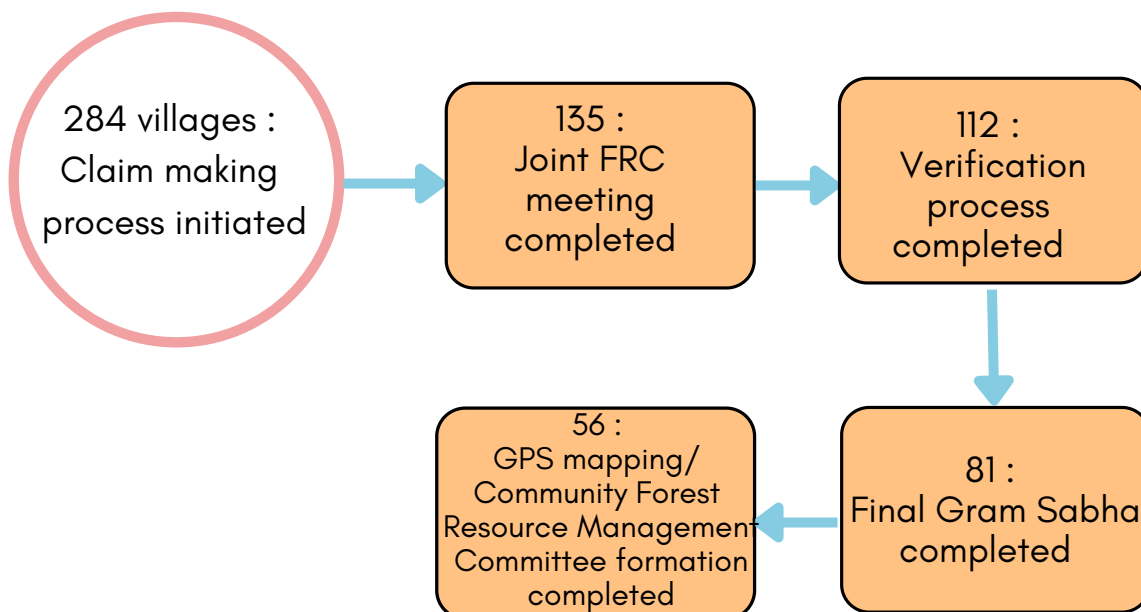


Role

We see our role as a process facilitator and catalyst in developing a supportive and enabling environment for community-based natural resources governance. Equally important is our role in building local capacities to strive for changes in the direction of sustainability and democratization of natural resources governance. All our work is guided by our core values

- Conservation
- Sustainable livelihood
- The democratization of natural resources governance
- Social justice
- 'Voices' of the poor / Political involvement of the marginalized

FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS



FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS

TENURIAL SECURITY

In the last one year, across 284 villages covering seven tribal districts of the state, Vasundhara initiated the process of filing new claims under the Forest Rights. To facilitate a plain sailing process, we held meetings with community-level organizations, people's forums as well as women networks to ensure required support through a collaborative approach. Key strategies :

Capacity Building :

Gram sabha members, PRI members and village youths / cadres. This aids in strengthening of grass-root level institutions, further accelerating the number of claims filed by the Gram Sabha.

Govt. functionaries, CSOs, and community members within the state and from other states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir.

Engagement with Civil Society groups and peoples forum/individuals, working on FRA, to expedite the recognition of rights process of the forest-dwelling communities.

Handholding support to Gram Sabha and FRC members during the claim facilitation process along with technical support to frontline officials and nodal agencies.

Organising a series of network meetings with Civil Society Organizations, Peoples' Forum, Academic Institutes and Individuals working on Forest rights & Governance in Odisha, to facilitate joint action in advocacy, information sharing & enhancing collaboration for asserting and exercising rights of the forest-dwelling communities and improved forest governance system in the state.

Interactive maps, for tracking and monitoring our progress, of all the districts in Odisha, listing potential villages with baseline information. This tool helps to minimize duplicity of the villages and to create a peoples directory on Community rights and Community Forest Resource Rights claims in Odisha

FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS

During FY 2021-22, Vasundhara's primary focus for intervention had been on our own field areas namely Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, and Sambalpur due to the COVID-19 situation.

Through our past experiences, we had observed that most claims are kept pending at SDLC and DLC level due to non-availability of GPS map of the traditional boundary of CFR claims for which the rate of recognition of rights is lesser than the number of claims filed. To address this gap, we initiated submissions of the claims with a GPS map, to expedite the approval process.

Follow up of Pending claims for recognition of Community Rights and Community Forest Resource Rights

During Phase - I TF project, Vasundhara submitted more than 1500 Community rights and Community Forest Resource rights claims at SDLC level in 11 districts. We successfully collaborated with four district administrations i.e. Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Rayagada and Nayagarh, towards rights recognition. Continuous engagement with district administrations helped us collectively develop effective frameworks for smooth implementation of Community Rights and Community Forest Resource Rights.

TENURIAL SECURITY

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS :

Ranpur block, Nayagarh district :

14 Titles; 24 villages

Recognized over: 608.68

hectares/1503.44 acres of forest land

Beneficiaries : 1946 households

(69 : Scheduled Tribes ; 1877: OTFDs)

Population : 8640

For the first time, joint CR & CFR title has been issued to more than one village where Other traditional forest dwellers (OTFD) reside. This is a landmark achievement not only for Vasundhara but also for the entire nation. Additional 61 Community rights and Community Forest resource rights claims have been approved by Nayagarh DLC and ready for distribution.



FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS

Rayagada district:

Titles distributed: 18 Cr & CFR
Area: 4100.56 acres of forest land
CR & CFR claims approved : 48
Area : 4410.15 acres of forest

Mayurbhanj District:

Claims approved : 14
Area : 2462.84 acres of forest land

Vasundhara was engaged as a resource organisation for facilitating the training programme, to provide technical support on GPS mapping and map preparation.



Facilitation of Conversion of Forest Villages to Revenue Villages:

People living within reserve forest areas which are not declared as revenue areas, face constraints in availing benefits under various government programs and are often treated as illegal occupants or encroachers. The provision laid down under Forest Rights Act, Section 3 (1)(h), mentions conversion of all forest / un-surveyed villages into revenue villages.

Vasundhara campaigned to issue a proclamation letter of the forest village for their conversion to revenue villages.

Letters were issued for:

56 forest villages in Nayagarh, Rayagada, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar district.

Intervention in: 25 villages

Claim filing initiated in: 9 villages

Land demarcation and boundary mapping completed: 5 villages (4 - Rayagada : recommended by SDLC to DLC for approval and to forward to Board of Revenue for the process of conversion ; 1 - Keonjhar).

FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS

Training & Capacity Building:

In order to ensure that the Forest Rights Act is properly implemented in our field areas, we selected 9 volunteers from Daspalla, Nuagaon & Gania block of Nayagarh district and 4 volunteers from Deogarh district to establish an informed network within the community. These volunteers have been trained on all the provisions of the Act and the different processes like formation of FRC, the role of Gram Sabhas in the entire process, checklist for evidence collection, filling up of community rights and Community forest resource rights claim forms, preparation of resource map, etc.

This training-cum orientation program is broadly divided into 4 categories :

Regional Level



Two meetings organised

33 participants 

Develop a group of youths who can provide handholding support to the local communities

GP Level



15 meetings organised

632 participants 

Inform FRC leaders about their role and responsibilities during the claim filing process under FRA

State Level



Nov 22&23, 2021

Over 1000 participants 

Sensitize people about challenges faced by communities during the claim filing process, from across the country

State Level



Four meetings organised

208 participants 

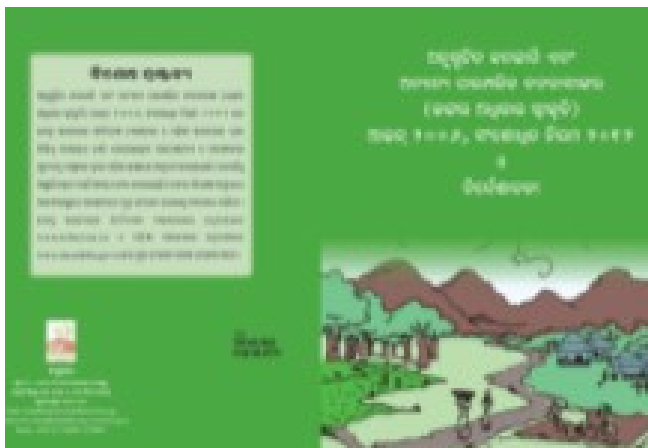
Inform officials about their roles & responsibilities during CR, CFR & conversion of forest villages into revenue villages processes

FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS

Information Disemination

Guideline / Handbook on Forest Rights Act in local language:

The major objective of publishing the field guide/handbook is to increase the understanding of various provisions laid down in the Forest Rights Act and Rules so that a common person would be able to provide handhold support to the local communities. This book contains the Act, Rule, important Guidelines issued by State and Central Govt.; important orders and circulars issued by State and Central Govt. During the reporting period, the guideline/handbook on Forest Rights Act, Claim forms of Community rights, and Community Forest Resource Rights, Format of different stages of claim facilitation have been developed and circulated widely.



Printing and Distribution of Claim Forms:

In order to make availability of claim forms to different organizations and peoples' networks, a total of 1000 case records consisting of Claim form B, Claim form C and format for

Gram sabha resolution, Format for joint Forest Rights Committee meeting, Format for recording the resources of their traditional boundary has been developed for facilitation of Community rights and Community Forest Resource rights claims in different districts of Odisha.



Habitat Rights Facilitation of PVTGs

Odisha is home to 62 different tribes, of which 13 are declared as 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)'. As the Forest Rights Act recognises the community tenures of habitat rights and habitation for PVTGs and pre-agricultural communities under section 3(1) (e), this is a historical achievement of the PVTGs to get their habitat rights. Vasundhara has started facilitation of claim filing process of their customary territories in collaboration with SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar.

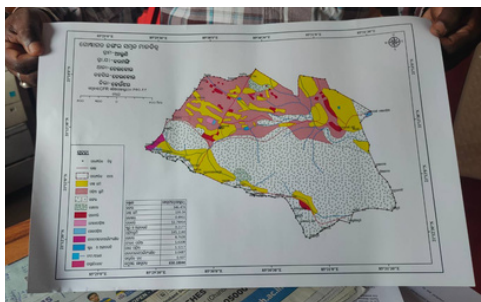
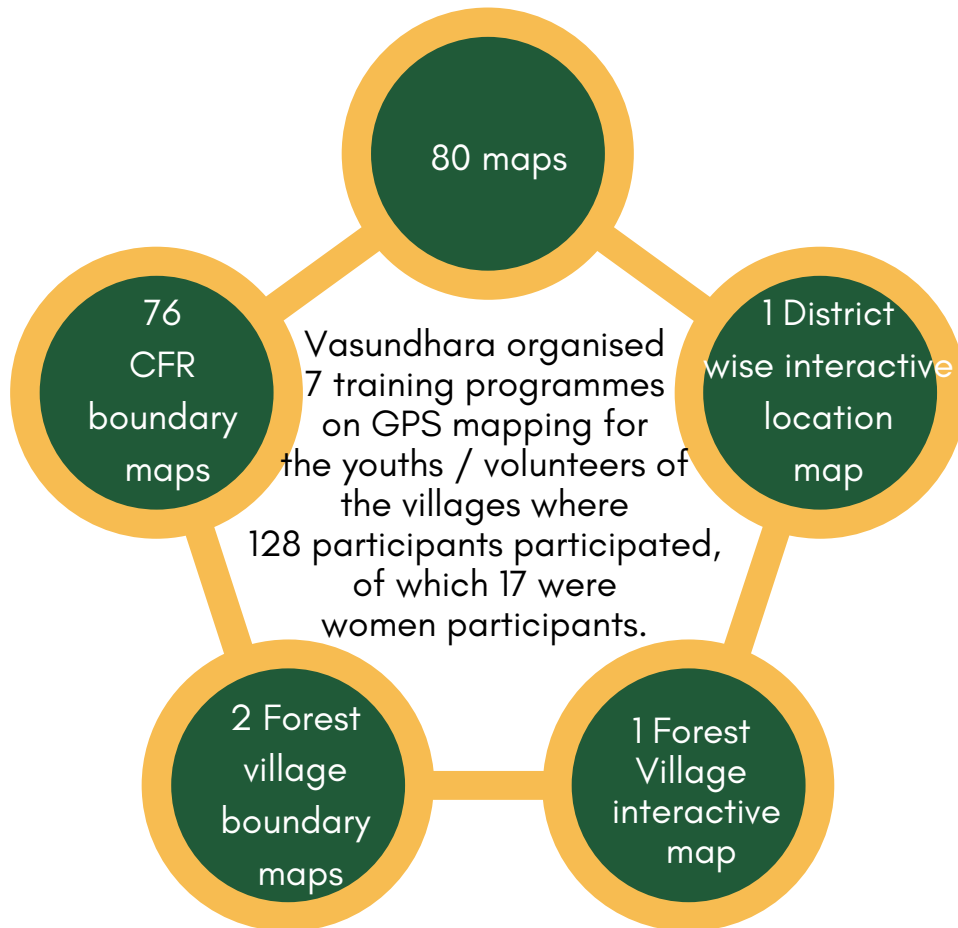
In Odisha, the PVTGs reside in different geographical areas of 14 districts which fall under 20 micro-projects. Till now, Vasundhara has facilitated habitat rights claims in 15 micro-projects out of 20. Out of those 15, claims for habitat rights in 12 micro-projects have been submitted at SDLC, i.e. the claim of ChuktiaBhunjia in CBDA, Nuapada; PaudiBhuyan in PBDA, Deogarh; Hill Khardia and Mankirdia in HKMDA, Mayurbhanj; Saura in TDA, Tumba, Ganjam; Saura in SDA, Chandragiri, Gajapati; Juanga in JDA, Keonjhar; Juanga in JDA, Dhenkanal;

Bonda in BDA, Malkangiri; Didayi in DDA, Malkangiri; KutiaKandha in KKDA, Belghar, Kandhamal; PaudiBhuyan in PBDA, Anugul.

Odisha is the first state to initiate the process in 13 PVTGs, out of which the claims of 9 PVTGs covering 12 micro-projects have already been submitted at SDLC and additional 2 habitat claims are ready for submission. During the facilitation process, it was found that the habitat concept does not exist in 3 PVTGs i.e. Lodha, Mayurbhanj; Lanjia Saura, Serango, Gajapati; Lanjia Saura, Putasingh, Rayagada, and Birhor, Jajpur. The draft guideline for the determination and mapping of habitat rights of PVTGs has been prepared in collaboration with SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar which has been shared with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) by SCSTRTI.



MAPPING OF CUSTOMARY/TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES



Interactive map: Our GIS team developed an interactive map for monitoring of the progress of claims by using Google earth. The objective of the interactive tool is for creating a pool of information relating to the facilitation of Community rights and Community Forest Resource rights facilitated by different organisations, peoples forum etc. Similarly, the interactive map of potential Forest Villages also has been developed to track and monitor the progress of claims relating to the conversion of forest villages to revenue villages.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS

Progress on Cross-cutting issues

Forest Rights Act is addressing the issues of climate change & gender equality. After recognition of the rights of the forest dwelling communities the village has to protect, conserve, manage and regenerate their Community Forest Resource areas. A management committee under sec 4(1) (e) has been constituted under the law whose primary responsibility is to stop the illegal tree felling, conserve the biodiversity, protect forest from forest fire, poaching and manage their forest as per their need.

Conflicts management

In collaboration with SCSTRTI (Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Research Training Institute), Bhubaneswar, govt. officials like Revenue officials, Forest Officials and Welfare officials were sensitized on different provisions of FRA especially on Community Rights and Community Forest Resource Rights and the role of the women therein. The Forest Department has ongoing conflicts with forest dwellers over management and exclusion rights.

As per our understanding, the awareness programme has brought some positive results however the progress is slow due to high government turnover.

Gender Equity

We ensure participation of women in the Gram Sabha and encourage that women helm the positions like the president / secretary of the Forest Rights Committee During preparation of social and resource map, we have been ensuring active participation of women. During training programmes, we try to ensure at least one third of the participants should be women.

We are trying to use our pre-existing networks in the community to sensitize themembers on the importance of including women in community meetings and deicions making process. The importance of women's participation in the decision making process is going on with both the men and women within the community. This inclusion of women will also bring social and economic benefits to the community.



FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS

Risks :

Lack of political mobilization at grassroots level as well as within the administrative mechanism.

Lack of partnership with other Civil society groups and resource organisations due to enactment of FCRA rule.

Limited human resource.

Non-cooperation of forest department during land demarcation under Community Rights and CFR rights.

Lack of knowledge with the DLC & SDLC members on the process and procedure of Community Rights and Community Resource Rights

Opportunities :

Engage with larger network of facilitators. Strengthen such network within the state by engaging with Odisha Jungle Manch, Adivasi Groups, and collective network of CSOs, etc.

Enhance engagement with district administrations to further engage with FRA coordinators.

Explore our engagements with institutions like TISS, SCSTRTI for building platforms for knowledge development and dissemination.

Engagement with MoTA to disseminate the learning and initiatives to other states.

Lessons Learned So Far:

During the follow up of pending claims we learnt that the claims are pending at SDLC level and are not forwarded to district level due to lack of understanding on different provisions of Forest Rights Act and its implication.

In Nayagarh, where only two community claims were recognized since 2011, saw approval of claims in 2018 and title distribution in 2021. This was possible after continuous engagement of local people's forum namely Maa Maninag Jungle Surakya Parishad and Vasundhara with district administration through various interventions. Hence, it is learnt that the success is possible through the empowerment of the local communities / Gram Sabha who can fight for their rights.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT- FACILITATION PROGRESS

Significant Story of Change:

In Ranpur block of Nayagarh district, for the first time traditional management systems have been recognised for title distribution in the country. Besides the scheduled tribes, it includes several villages inhabited by other traditional forest dwellers.



The district had conferred two Community Rights to Scheduled tribe villages before amendment of Forest Rights Rule, 2012. The district administration had the understanding that Community rights could not be recognised in heterogeneous village or OTFD villages. So even though 14 CFR claims covering 24 villages had been filed by Vasundhara in collaboration with Maa Maninag Jungle Surakhya Parishad (MMJSP) since 2014, the claims remained pending at DLC level.

The forest department had reservation on the approval of CFR rights in heterogeneous villages where VSS do not exist. After continuous follow up and efforts of MMJSP and Vasundhara, finally those over those titles. During this phase Vasundhara engaged with district administration, oriented them about the long standing struggle of the communities and enlightened them about the provisions under the Act and Rules.

The forest department was finally convinced to sign over the titles. Finally, on 2nd November, 2021, the District Collector handed over the titles to FRC members. This created an example and learning opportunities for other state like Uttarakhand how to make joint claim where more than one village protecting a single forest patch. This story not only resolves the issue of joint titling but also conferred the rights of OTFD villages





COMMUNITY RIGHTS & COMMUNITY FOREST RIGHTS

Community Forest Rights (CFR) is central to Vasundhara's work. We work extensively to secure the rights of forest-dependent communities through advocacy and programmatic endeavors. Vasundhara gives handholding support to several Community Forest Rights Management (CFM) committees under Gramsabhas to effectively conserve and manage their forest lands. Vasundhara also engages with communities and the forest departments to prevent forest management that solely advocates commercial interests, like plantations of native and nonnative species. Vasundhara, through its knowledge of traditional management practices and biodiversity conservation, has put a stop to these activities in various places

COMMUNITY FOREST GOVERNANCE

Community Forest Resource governance forms a core part of Vasundhara's work. Vasundhara facilitates capacity building of local communities for sustainable management of their forest resources using their traditional knowledge. The Community Forest resource governance and management system in our intervention areas are organized by rotational patrolling between all the households involved.

The Forest protection is headed by the president of CFR management committees constituted under Rule 4(1) (e) under FRA 2006. The CFR management committees are responsible for daily management of the protection system and enforcement of protection rules approved by Gramsabhas and conflicts resolution.

Gram Sabhas emphasize that women members share greater responsibilities for management and governance of CFR areas within the legal framework.

Vasundhara has strengthened the Gram Sabha level CFR management process in 1003 villages, empowering them to take their own decision.

CREATION OF A FACILITATING ENVIRONMENT FOR CFM

Vasundhara and partner organizations are working in Mayurbhanj (especially Similipal), Deogarh, Kandhamal, and Nayagarh to develop conservation and management frameworks. Our partners are CREFTDA, Jashipur, Gramswaraj, Bangiriposhi in Mayuarbhanj. Similarly, in the Deogarh cluster, we work with Zilla Jungle Mancha, Banani Mahila Sangha, BanajaMahila Sangha, and CIRTD. In Nayagarh, we are working with MMJSP, MJSM and NIRMAN. In Kandhamal, we work in Jamjhari Panchayat and Antaranga, a federation of Kandhamal youths.

This year 136 new CFR management committees were constituted to execute decisions taken by Gramsabhas in Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Kandhamal

Hand-holding support was given to CFR MC members. CFR management process initiated in CFM villages under FRA provision of Nayagarh District and 5 CFM villages in Reamal, Deogarh. Various training programs have been conducted to train village-based forest resource managers, a significant portion of whom were women, who could use their knowledge and skills in forestry, ecology, forest-based economics, and ethnobiology.

CFR RIGHTS RECOGNITION AND GOVERNANCE

Vasundhara with the support of the core team and partner organizations formulated critical interventions to catalyze the implementation of the CR and CFR rights, which stands at only 3 % of its total potential. We work closely with grassroots levels CSOs and NGOs to facilitate the rights process with the Gram Sabhas and leverage government & other funds for funding. In the intervention areas, we facilitate training of personals and capacity building of local organizations, individuals, and government agencies that are key for the implementation of the rights.

For a smoother facilitation process, we collaborated with proactive district administrations of various districts. We also collaborated with SCSTRTI to carry out off-campus training programs on FRA, PESA, and PoA in Gajapati, Kandhamal, and Kendujhar districts.

We successfully collaborated with 13 organizations and provided technical support to TISS, CYSD, Living Farm, Atma Shakti, etc.

The GPS mapping process has been completed for 32 villages encompassing over 2612 ha of Reserve Forests.

POST CFR RIGHTS RECOGNITION - MANAGEMENT FACILITATION

Action Research for CFR Management Planning facilitation has been redesigned in Nayagarh, with the aim of producing a state-level broad framework consisting of a CFR-management model for Odisha. This program aims at providing technical and handholding support to communities to formalize collectives, livelihood options and strengthen forest governance. The management of common property resources has also been a part of the process which has primarily aimed at encompassing the communities.

Recently, 24 villages comprising of 14 committees presented their CFR/CR titles under the FRA.

Post rights recognition processes includes strengthening at the Gram Sabha level and facilitating youth's and women's participation in functional collectives. Young cadre's selection, for local level influence and awareness, is also a part of the project's final aims.

Materials and other awareness brochures on potential of CFR rights were distributed amongst all the representatives, for the facilitation of the post rights recognition process.



Women's group Discussion about CFR management and planning



Gram Sabha Discussion about CFR management and planning



Discussion session on post rights recognition processes.

POST CFR RIGHTS RECOGNITION - MANAGEMENT FACILITATION

Column1	Distict	Block	Panchayat	Villages	Approval of CFR plan by Gram Sabha
	Mayurbhanj	2	6	64	COMPLETED
	Deogarh	2	14	21	COMPLETED
	Angul	1	1	1	COMPLETED
	Sambalpur	1	4	5	COMPLETED
	Kandhamal	1	1	22	COMPLETED
	Sundargarh	1	1	10	COMPLETED
	Nayagarh	1	7	9	COMPLETED
Total		7	9	34	132

A tablewise description of the CFR planning facilitation exercise at our various intervention areas



Awareness campaigns among young adolescents.



Documentation of cultural ecocentric heritage.



Introductory session in new Intervention areas about CFR/CR rights.

Activities

- A two-day festival, Sankalp Divas, took place inside Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR) where the inhabitants of the tiger reserve pledged to work together towards the conservation and management of STR.
- Attendance : 3000 people
- This included people from the three Gram Panchayats of Gudugudia, Baheripani and Astakuan; and the volunteers from around the state working on the conservation of forest and biodiversity.

- A state level protected areas network meeting was conducted by the Adima Adivasi Mukti Mancha, Baisipalli, Sanchar and Vasundhara.
- A joint action plan was prepared on the issues and challenges of implementation of the forest rights and the rights of the tribals and other traditional forest dwelling communities

- Technical training was provided to all the TF volunteers and facilitators on the CFR governance and management.
- Similar process has been initiated in a few selected villages by Antarang, NIRMAN and Gramswaraj.

- Technical support was provided to the Living Farm staff and volunteers to manage bamboo and the thatching grass under FRA within their CFR areas.

- 35 individuals of the Jujumara block of the Sambalpur district were trained to facilitate CFR and post CFR process in their respective villages.

- Technical support was provided to Gramswaraj to support CFR governance and management in transitional areas of Simlipal Tiger Reserve.



Training Programmes



- CR, CFR Rights.
- CFR management
- conversion of unsurveyed villages to revenue villages
- equip the participants with the required tools to carry out the recognition process and CFR mapping



DARINGBADI, KANDHAMAL



47 PARTICIPANTS



5 DAYS



- Training Program for Atma Shakti
- coordinators of different blocks, districts and regions who work directly with the volunteers



KANDHAMAL AND NAYAGARH



400 VOLUNTEERS



2 DAYS



- In collaboration with CYSD.
- Understanding of Forest Rights, protection and importance of community participation
- engagement with villagers



BASANTPUR, NAYAGARH



24 PARTICIPANTS



- Vasundhara is in collaboration with TISS
- Training programs for the coordinators and local cadres in Ranchi
- Trained on the process of Forest Rights Recognition.



RANCHI, JHARKHAND



80 PARTICIPANTS



- Training Program for Living Farm
- On Community Rights, CFR Rights and CFR mapping.



KALAHANDI, RAYAGADA



20 PARTICIPANTS



3 DAYS



- Training Program for Living Farm
- On Community Rights, CFR Rights and CFR mapping.



RAYAGADA, KANDHAMAL,
MAYURBHANJ, DEOGARH.



71 VOLUNTEERS

Legal Training Programmes & Workshops

1. Small group meeting with MP lawyers on current legal issues.
2. Small group meeting with Odisha lawyers regarding new/ amended Farming laws.
3. Chhattisgarh Workshop for Lawyers and Legally Trained Civil Society.
4. National Workshop on Womens & FRA .
5. Small group meeting with Chhattisgarh lawyers on GNCTD (Amendment) Act 2021.
6. Meeting with Vasundhara office and field staff to discuss Implementation of FRA on ground.

7. Small group discussion on recent developments in Lakhshadweep in context of constitutional protection to Adivasis.
8. Meeting with local lawyers, civil society and community leaders organized by Janmukti Sangharsh Vahini at Banka, Bihar on FRA implementation in Bihar.
9. Small group meeting organized with Odisha lawyers and activists on Forest land diversion.
10. Small group meeting with Civil society and community members in Sundergarh on Implementation of FRA.

Publications

1. A chapter on women and the Forest Rights Act entitled 'Strengthening Forests and Empowering Women: Insights from the Forest Rights Act' co-authored by Ms. Astha Saxena and Ms. Sanghamitra Dubey has been submitted, and is under revision after receiving comments from the editors. This chapter would be published in an upcoming book by Routledge on Climate Justice.

2. A paper entitled 'Climate Change and Afforestation Policy: A case study of denial of constitutional duties by the Indian state' by Ms. Puja has been submitted for publication in the LEAD journal. One round of editing is complete, and we are awaiting the second round of editing by peer reviewer.

3. Print copies of 'Righting Wrongs by Writing Resolutions' (English) by Ms. Puja and Ms. Sanghamitra Dubey were finally produced in September and are ready for distribution.

4. Print copies of 'Using Prevention of Atrocities Act to Advance Forest Rights' (Hindi) by Ms. Gayatri Raghunandan have been produced and are ready for distribution. 5. Printing of 'Awam ki Satta, Gram Sabha ki Satta' (Hindi translation of 'Right wrong by Writing Resolutions') is underway.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

FOREST BASED LIVELIHOODS

MFP forms an essential part of Tribal life and culture. According to the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), 100 million people living near or in the forests depend on MFP to meet their consumption and income needs. Odisha has a total forest cover of 43,981 sq km containing 120 recorded species of flora. This presents a brilliant opportunity for livelihood generation along with conservation of important floral species. Keeping in view the above, Vasundhara has been associated with Forest Based Livelihood generation in the intervention areas for the past two decades.



We believe that by working closely with the Forest Communities to generate Forest Based Livelihood, we build an enterprise based on traditional and indigenous knowledge.

Our intervention model involves forming Producer Groups with women members of the community, who are the primary users and collectors of the MFPs. Members from one village or group of villages form a Producer Group. A group of Producer Groups, later on can be united under a Block level Business Union. Producer Groups and Business Unions help increase the bargaining power of the MFP collectors in the open market. Till date, we have facilitated the formation of 221 collectives and 2 Business Unions selling MFP such as Sal Seed, Beta Seed, Char Seed, Mahua, Sal leaf, Siali leaf, Cashew, Honey, etc.

Vasundhara's research initiatives have produced some exceptional results. Inputs from its field-level operatives and data collected from various other sources have provided valuable insights into the lives of vulnerable populations. Vasundhara works from the grassroots level to implement its programs. It assists communities in every stage of collective development.

PROGRESS REVIEW

Formation of Producer Groups

This year saw the formation of 224 Producer Groups. The target for the year was 364.

Field Area	Number of Producer Groups Formed	Total Number of Producer Groups
Jashipur (Mayurbhanj)	14	25
Ranapur (Nayagarh)	30	88
Deogarh & Kuchinda	13	86
Kandhamal	3	25
Total	57	224



PROGRESS REVIEW

Formation of VDVKs

We facilitated the formation and running of 15 VDVKs in the given reporting period. Funds have been released for 4 VDVK amounting to Rs.30L

Name of VDVK	Field Area	Total Members
Pragati VDVK	Sulumaha	300
Alok VDVK	Rutungia	300
Pairmala VDVK	Bhramarbadi	300
Mahashakti Mahila Mandal	Bariguda	300
Pragati VDVK	Mandakia	300
Batakhanda VDVK	Baliguda	300
Chakapada VDVK	Chakapada	300
Posara VDVK	Posara	300
Bariaani VDVK	Deogarh (10L)	305
Jeevika VDVK	Kuchinda	302
Jeevnadhara VDVK	Kuchinda	308
Bahini VDVK	Kuchinda	302
Lugu Buru VDVK	Kuleitumba (10L)	300
Banaikola VDVK	Banoikola (5L)	300
Banani VDVK	Dumurdiha (5L)	300
Total		4517

PROGRESS REVIEW

NTFP Mapping

For NTFP mapping, a product profiling format was created and shared with the volunteers on the field to collect data from our intervention villages. Through the format created we collected data on the products found in the intervention area, average quantity collected in a season, the season of collection, MSP rate, local market rate, and possible value addition scope. Till now we collected data from 85 villages and the data collection process is ongoing in other villages.

Value Addition of Products

On the basis of the data collected and after discussions with the Producer Groups, we have arrived at the decision to do value addition and produce Forest Honey, Sal Plates and Dona, and Siali Plates and Dona for the upcoming year. For the same purpose, identification of the villages where the processing units would be set has been completed.

The Purchase Committee has approved the purchase of Sewing Machines and Pressing Machines for Sal and Siali Plates and Dona and an order for the same has been placed. The areas where pressing units would be setup are

PROGRESS REVIEW

Field Area	Sal / Siali Plate and Dona	Units of Sewing Machine	Units of Pressing Machine
Purunapani	Siali Plate and Dona	10	1
Barkote	Siali Plate and Dona	5	1
Ranigola	Siali Plate and Dona	10	1
Nagleju	Siali Plate and Dona	5	1
Jhamjhari	Siali Plate and Dona	-	-
Olkudur	Sal Plate and Dona	-	1
Madanmohanpur	Sal Plate and Dona	-	1
Kuleitumba	Sal Plate and Dona	2	-

Regularization

To regularise the functions of the existing groups and collectives, regular review meetings and business plan meetings were held at the collectives and the Union level. A total of 66 meetings were held in the reporting period, which includes EC meetings, AGBMs and Business Plan Meetings.

PROGRESS REVIEW

Convergence of Schemes

Various activities were undertaken for the linking of the producer groups and the collectives with the existing government schemes. 3 PGs have been linked with the PG support of OLM. 2 PGs have received livelihood support under Entrepreneurship Development. OPELIP has provided sewing machines for the production of Siali Plates. We facilitated the plucking of the Kendu Leaves in Ranapur through the KL division. 10 weighing machines and 100 plastic trays were given to Maa Pitabali and Sargiful VDVK through Phulbani ITDA.

Cross Learning Programme

29 members from the collectives of Jashipur visited the Banani Mahila Sangha in Barkote and Banaja Banijya Sangha in Kuchinda, to learn about the functioning of Business Unions and how it helps in strengthening the bargaining power of the collectives in the market.



Business Status

Business Status 2021												
	Tamarind	Mahua Flower	Char Seed	Beta Seed	Ambasara	Sal Seed	Honey	Sal Leaf	Siali Leaf	KL	Cashew	Amount
Ranapur	1296	75400	1327.8	76800	24000	0	0	0	0	425640	9066.92	829530.72
Nuagaon	0	109500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17379.6	126879.6
Odagaon	314.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4847.44	5161.54
Daspala	0	176000	0	0	0	24000	0	0	0	0	0	2000000
Banaja Baniya Sangha	54,625	244484	0	0	0	19600	0	0	0	0	0	2,519,067
Banani Mahila Sangha	54,625	183855	0	0	0	0	0	0	97009	0	0	2,863,278
Sargiful	0	804000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	804000
Jashipur	0	166000	0	0	0	33880	14848	34394	0	0	0	687686.2
Total	110860.1	719829	1327.8	76800	24000	59840	14848	34394	97009	425640	3129396	1,29,33,705.1

PROGRESS REVIEW

Mohok Sondhayni Maha Sangha

On 29th December 2021, 25 Producer Groups of Jasipur came together to form 'Mohok Sondhayni Maha Sangha'. The aim of the Maha Sangha is to further strengthen the Women's Business Institution and to further increase their hold in the local market. The meeting was attended by 75 members of the groups. An Executive Committee of 15 members was formed with Sumati Soren as the President and Rajni Mahakud as the Secretary of the Maha Sangha.

Cross Learning Programme

29 members from the collectives of Jashipur visited the Banani Mahila Sangha in Barkote and Banaja Banijya Sangha in Kuchinda, to learn about the functioning of Business Unions and how it helps in strengthening the bargaining power of the collectives in the market.



OPERATIONAL PROGRESS

Digitization of PG Data

A discussion took place within the team regarding the need of the Digitization of PG data. Various formats were discussed for the same. The final format was decided upon and would be shared in the mail along with the proceedings of the Livelihood Team Meeting.

NTFP Profiling

It was discussed and decided that the NTFP Profiling of the intervention areas would be completed by the end of January.

It was discussed that a pilot study would be conducted in 14 blocks of 5 districts for the formation of a State Level NTFP database. To begin with, we would collect data from 5 blocks and work upon the data gaps on the basis of the collected data. After finalizing the format, we would associate with local NGOs and CBOs to collect the data from all the blocks. Volunteers would be appointed for the same and a budget would be drawn accordingly. The list of the selected blocks are given below. The data collection would begin from the highlighted blocks.

Research

In recent times we have found that the quality of Sal and Siali leaves collected from the forests is degrading and thus affecting the income of the forest community. Thus, a Sal leaf study is being carried out in Dumurdiha to understand the reason for the degradation of quality of leaves and the estimated impact it would have on the overall income of the community. The study involves methodologies such as Plot Survey and FGDs.

OPERATIONAL PROGRESS

Banani Mahila Sangha has been functioning in the Deogarh field area for the past 20 years. Hence, this year we plan to conduct a Impact Evaluation Study of Banani Mahila Sangha on the income and employment of tribal women in the intervention areas of Deogarh. During the study, we would also facilitate the streamlining of Union data and digitize them.

Volunteer Data Structure

To streamline the volunteer functions, it was decided that the MPR of the volunteers have to be mailed latest by 3rd of every month. The honorarium will be released latest by 5th of every month with a note from the accounts department informing that the honorarium for the month has been released.

Vision Note

It was discussed in the meeting that a Vision Note would be prepared for the Livelihood team and would be shared with the Executive Committee. Accordingly, discussions on visions of the team members related to livelihood in the intervention areas were discussed. A Vision note would be prepared and shared shortly.

WAY FORWARD

Reviewing the progress of the season, a road map of the journey ahead has been mapped out. Listed below is the targeted PG formations for the next period.

Field Name	Existing	New	Total
Kandhamal	25	25	50
Jashipur	25	10	35
Deogarh	40	55	95
Kuchinda	53	30	83
Ranapur	91	10	101
Total	234	130	364

Plans have been formulated for the formation of business unions in Ranapur and Daspalla.

Producer Company

Discussions regarding the viability of forming a State Level Producer Company took place. It was decided that a committee would be formed to discuss the possible structure and by laws of the Producer Company according to the Company Laws. The structure so developed would be presented to the Producer Groups and discussed with them to know their opinion regarding the same. A report on the Company laws would be shared shortly.

The Committee Members would be: Bishwanath Tung, Manmohan Barik, Bhagyalaxmi Biswal and Sayani Chatterjee.

WOMEN EMPOWEREMENT

Vasundhara helped create market linkages for the sale of NTFPS by assisting to create of over 250 Women-Led NTFP collectives, thereby supporting 5000 households across 7 districts in Odisha. Three apex federations of women's collectives were also created to give support to village-level collectives. Vasundhara has identified leaders, trained them and organized them to function effectively. Vasundhara's intervention has led to the creation of a strong collective social human capital base with highly motivated women leadership in two districts of Mayurbhanj and Nayagarh.

Vasundhara has provided training to MFP gatherers to facilitate adoption of scientific gathering techniques. Training was provided to over 300 Board of Directors and front-line members participated in various training programmes.



RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND IMPACT

Vasundhara has been at the forefront of the fight to secure fair prices for the MFP's so that the communities can tide over the economic shock, caused due to COVID induced lockdown. We created market linkages between businesses and the tribal population to effectively take MFP's to market. Vasundhara has interfaced between various stakeholders like the government (Institutions like Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED); Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation (TDCC), Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS).

Recently, as a result of Vasundhara's advocacy, Sal Seeds was included in the list of MSP procurement for the 2021 season. Sal Seed was omitted from the list in June 2020. The Sal Seed Gatherers were already receiving as much as 50 % less price than MSP for their produce when it was omitted from the list. Vasundhara is a key part of the national level effort to reduce the GST on MFP's. In this regard, GST on important MFP's, sal leaf and plate, Sabia grass etc have been bought to zero.

COLLABORATIONS



DONOR ORGANISATIONS



Unitarian Universalist Association



Rights Resources Governance



Ford Foundation



Tenure Facility



Center for International Forestry Research



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS



SACAL

Jeevan Vikas



PATANG

Tiranga Yubak Sangha



NIRMAN

Gram Swaraj



CIRTD



GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS



SCSTRTI

Odisha Livelihood Mission



Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society



Integrated Tribal Development Agency





FINANCES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2022

SOURCES OF FUNDS	SCH	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Capital Fund (as per last Balance Sheet)		1,96,43,748.25	
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure		23,30,726.06	2,19,74,474.31
Temporary Restricted Fund (Unspent Grant)	1		1,30,78,223.49
Corpus Fund (IC)	2		4,14,876.55
Corpus Fund (FC)	3		14,32,634.06
Pension & Gratuity Fund	4		28,69,787.13
Staff Development Fund (FC)	5		18,33,384.78
Staff Welfare Fund (FC)	6		11,92,135.58
Staff Welfare Fund (SWF-IC)	7		17,887.24
Community Empowerment Revolving Fund (CERF)	8		62,63,558.80
TOTAL			4,90,76,961.94
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Property, Plant & Equipments	9		1,05,77,129.30
Current Assets, Loans & Advances			
Cash & Bank Balance	10	3,15,58,122.65	
LIC of India (P & GS)	4	28,69,787.13	
Loans & Advances	11	2,94,562.00	
Community Empowerment Revolving Fund (CERF)	12	43,48,970.00	
Accrued Interest on Term Deposit		1,62,395.11	
TDS Receivable		1,63,376.75	
Security Deposit	13	52,205.00	
		3,94,49,418.64	
Current Liabilities & Provisions			
Liabilities for Expenses	14	9,49,586.00	
		9,49,586.00	
Net Current Assets			3,84,99,832.64
TOTAL			4,90,76,961.94

The above Balance Sheet, to the best of our belief contains a true account of the funds & liabilities and assets & properties of the organisation as on 31st March 2022

For SDR & Associates
Chartered Accountants


N V Bhaskar Rao
Partner



Signature of Authorised Signatory




Y Giri Rao
Secretary

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 29.07.2022

STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

PARTICULARS	SCH	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
INCOME			
Grant-in-Aid Utilised (Sch-I)	1		3,58,09,868.01
Bank Interest			11,44,550.00
Other Receipts			
Use of Infrastructure		15,37,818.82	
Institutional Consultancy		1,50,237.00	
Staff Contribution		1,95,000.00	18,83,055.82
Sale of Vehicle			1,40,000.00
TOTAL INCOME (A)			3,89,77,473.83
EXPENDITURE			
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION		25,68,049.00	
Holden India Programme-5			
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION		8,04,718.00	
Holden India Programme-6			
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION		15,33,178.00	
Holden India Programme-7			
RRI - 21 VASU 01		89,76,077.82	
Strengthening Effective Implementation of Forest Right Act 2006(2021)			
RRI - 22 VASU 01		2,28,296.00	
Strengthening Effective Implementation of Forest Right Act 2006(2022)			
The Tenure Facility		83,49,738.00	
Upscaling Community Forest Resources Right Recognition & Governance in India (Phase-II)			
The Ford Foundation (136043)		1,16,39,942.19	
General Support & Project Support for Institutional Strengthening			
CIFOR		1,773.00	
Community Based Forestry Success Stories			
IIFM		5,75,060.00	
Impart Field Learning to Students of PGDFM Program			3,46,76,832.01
General Fund Expenses			
Foreign		2,10,892.82	
Indian		4,95,767.44	7,06,660.26
Transferred to			
APPI Project		53,888.00	
Corpus Fund (FC)		3,25,000.00	
Corpus Fund(Indian)		50,000.00	4,28,888.00
TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURE (B)			3,58,12,380.27
Depreciation	9		5,49,697.00
Discard of Equipments	9		2,84,670.50
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)			23,30,726.06
			3,89,77,473.83

The above Income and Expenditure Statement, to the best of our belief contains a true account of all the Income and Expenditure of the Organisation for the year ended 31st March 2022.

For SDR & Associates
Chartered Accountants


N V Bhaskar Rao
Partner



Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 29.07.2022

Signature of Authorised Signatory




Y Giri Rao
Secretary

FINANCES

STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

PARTICULARS	SCH	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
RECEIPTS			
Grant in Aid Received			
Foreign		2,48,82,725.00	
Indian		6,02,250.00	2,54,84,975.00
Bank Interest			
Foreign		11,35,914.58	
Indian		83,188.00	12,19,102.58
Interest Specific Fund			
Foreign		72,902.00	
Indian		82,190.00	1,55,092.00
Other Receipts			
Use of Infrastructure		13,63,856.82	
Institutional Consultancy		1,50,237.00	
Staff Contribution		1,95,000.00	17,09,093.82
Project Contribution			
Staff Welfare Fund		11,52,871.00	
Staff Development Fund		3,41,085.00	14,96,666.00
Loan & Advances Recovered			10,000.00
CERF Loan - Beneficiary			2,68,650.00
Sale of old Vehicle			1,40,000.00
Income Tax Refund Received			8,470.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS (A)			3,04,92,339.40
PAYMENTS			
Payment made from FC Fund			
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION Holden India Programme-5		25,68,049.00	
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION Holden India Programme-6		8,04,718.00	
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION Holden India Programme-7		15,33,178.00	
RRI - 21 VASU 01 Strengthening Effective Implementation of Forest Right Act 2006(2021)		89,76,077.82	
RRI - 22 VASU 01 Strengthening Effective Implementation of Forest Right Act 2006(2022)		2,28,296.00	



The Tenure Facility Upscaling Community Forest Resources Right Recognition & Governance in India(Phase-II)		85,53,126.00	
The Ford Foundation (136043) General Support & Project Support for Institutional Strengthening		1,26,09,976.19	
CIFOR Community Based Forestry Success Storeies		1,773.00	
Staff Welfare Fund (FC)		7,12,125.00	
General Fund (FC)		16,04,892.82	3,75,92,211.83
Payment made from Indian Fund			
APPI Ensuring sustainable tenure & Livelihood Security		118.00	
IIFM To Impart Field Learning to Students of PGDFM Program		5,75,060.00	
CERF Expenses General Fund (IC)		698.00	
		24,767.00	6,00,643.00
CERF Loan - Beneficiary			6,31,040.00
Loan & Advances			2,18,289.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS (B)			3,90,42,163.83
CHANGES IN CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS (A-B)			(85,49,844.43)
Opening Balance			
Cash-in-hand		39,153.00	
Cash-at-Bank & FD		3,93,24,178.08	
Payables		(2,04,950.00)	3,91,58,381.08
Closing Balance			3,06,08,536.65
Cash-in-hand (Sch-10)	10	55,257.00	
Cash-at-Bank & FD (Sch-10)	10	3,15,02,865.65	
Payables (Sch-14)	14	(9,49,586.00)	3,06,08,536.65

The above Receipts and Payments Statement, to the best of our belief contains a true & fair account of the movement of cash and cash equivalents for the year ended 31st March 2022.

For SDR & Associates
Chartered Accountants

N V Bhaskar Rao
N V Bhaskar Rao
Partner



Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 29.07.2022

Signature of Authorised Signatory



Y Giri Rao
Y Giri Rao
Secretary



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dr. Madhu Sarin - President

Prof. Premananda Panda - Vice President

Mr Y.Giri Rao - Executive Director

Dr. Neera M. Singh - Member

Mr. Tushar Dash - Member

Dr Geetanjay Sahu - Member

Ms Ranjita Pattnaik - Member

Ms. Puspanjali Satpathy - Treasurer



TEAM



- **Y.Giri Rao**
- **Puspanjali Satpathy**
- **Krupasindhu Parida**
- **Ranjita Pattanaik**
- **Sushant Kumar Dalai**
- **Aurobindo Rout**
- **Padma Ch Panigrahy**
- **Bhagya Laxmi Biswal**
- **Sakuntala Acharya**
- **Swapneswar Dehury**
- **Rohit Behera**
- **Nilamani Mohapatra**
- **Biswanath Tung**

- **Manamohan Barik**
- **Manoj Kumar Dehury**
- **Shyam Sundar Sahoo**
- **Madhab Chandra Jena**
- **Sayani Chatterjee**
- **Ashok Parida**
- **Aditya Prasad Panda**
- **Ipsita Behera**
- **Basant Ku. Si**
- **Chakradhar Majhi**
- **Saraswati Soren**
- **Silu Pradhan**
- **Shusila Murmu**
- **Shikha Tubid**
- **Aishwarya Mohanty**
- **Deborah Deka**
- **Smruthi Ananth**
- **Sabit Oraon**



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