



# **COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS; ISSUES AND CHALLENGES (ODISHA)**

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CBD Hyderabad  
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Vasundhara**

# OUTLINE

- Overview of CCAs in Odisha
- Key issues and challenges
- Federations of CCAs (campaign, movement groups)
- Opportunities



# COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS AND INITIATIVES IN ODISHA



## Community forestry

- About 12000 self-initiated forest protecting groups throughout Odisha protecting around two million hectares of forest



## Biocultural territories

- Customary territories and sacred areas
- *Niyamgiri, Juang pirha...*



## Forest based cooperatives

- Women cooperatives collecting NTFP and protecting forests (Sambalpur, Deogarh, Nayagarh..)



## Other community conservation initiatives

- CCIs in protected areas (Badrama, Sunabeda...)
- People's movements for saving forests (Niyamgiri, Gandhmardan, coastal areas, mangrove forests...)



## KEY ISSUES (LEGAL RECOGNITION)

- CCAs do not have any legal recognition
- Forest Rights Act and Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act provide legal recognition
- FRA provides for rights and powers/authorities for conservation and management of forests
- FRA has not been properly implemented and not been used by most of the community conservation groups and forest fringe villages
- About 5355 CFR claims filed of which 902 titles given (lot needs to be done considering presence of 29302 forest fringe villages and 12000 forest protecting groups)
- CFR recognized are mostly JFM areas and not the traditional or customary forests of communities
- **Claims on community forests filed by more than 2000 community forestry groups are not recognized till date.**



# GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

- Claims of rights under FRA leading to assertion of community boundaries and territories (of community forestry groups, habitat rights, seasonal access of nomadic communities..)
- Governance changes necessary to complement and support redrawing boundaries are not given attention (...leading to confrontation and conflicts in the process of assertion of rights)
- Host of existing forest and wildlife laws such as IFA, WLPA, Joint Forest Management, Working plans etc obstructing community forest governance



## OTHER ISSUES...

- Diversion of forest land and community forest resources without recognition of rights and consent of gram sabhas (village institution)
- Wildlife conservation regime continues to exclusionary and resisting implementation of amendments in WLPA and FRA (leading to violation of forest rights in PAs, relocation from tiger reserves...)
- Investments in forestry programs through externally aided projects (JICA), REDD pilot projects, CAMPA, eco-tourism projects etc affecting CCIs and working counter to FRA, PESA (e.g. plantation in community lands..)



# FEDERATIONS OF CCAs

There are number of federations, campaign groups, local movements, research and action groups working on community conservation, rights and governance in Odisha

- **Federation of forest protecting groups**-State level federation (Odisha Jungle Manch) formed by district level federations represented by villages
- **Campaign groups**-Campaign for Survival & Dingity working on issues of forest rights
- **Local movements**-Niyamgiri, Gandhmardan, Coastal areas raising issues of protection of forests by mining, ports, and other projects



# OPPORTUNITIES

- FRA and PESA are important legislations which should be used for strengthening CCAs
- Amendment rules under FRA and new guidelines address to community forest rights and management rights







THANKS

## VASUNDHARA

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