

Connecting people and place: an exchange on biocultural indicators

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INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Relationship to land is central
- ▶ Strong customary Institutions
- ▶ Continuation of traditional mode of production and occupation
- ▶ Collective way of life
- ▶ Continuity of peace is important indicator for conservation of IK

Our Belief & Relationship with Land

- ▶ Land is our mother and Sky our father
- ▶ Land is Sacrosanct-it cannot be traded
- ▶ Believe in the past, present and the future, the seen and unseen, above and below
- ▶ Future generation is the land Owner, we are just the custodian
- ▶ We belong to the land and derived our identity and culture from the land
- ▶ Take care of our land and our land will take care of us

Traditional Institutions and Community Vitality

- ▶ Well Structured traditional Institution bound by cultural values of respect and reciprocity
- ▶ Tribe Council (Tangkhul Naga Long) -apex body of the community & runs in parallel with state body
- ▶ Four Zonal Council- takes care of respective areas
- ▶ Village council -local self governing Units headed by hereditary chief (Awunga) and representatives of clan elders (Hanga). Responsible for equitable distribution of resources, regulate local rules and norms
- ▶ Women's Body
- ▶ Youth Body
- ▶ Conduct annual and semi annual public assembly

Customary Land Tenure System & Access to Natural Resources

- ▶ Practice Common resource regime - universal access to land and natural resources
- ▶ Three tier customary land tenure system
 1. Community tenure system - all household have access to community land irrespective of gender and social status
 2. Clan Tenure system-clan chief is the custodian head
 3. Private tenure System- inherited by the eldest son
- ▶ In the shifting cultivation area, the tenure is private but land is utilize as common resource
- ▶ Land cannot be transfer to outsider

Land Use Types & Diverse Landscape

- ▶ Land are utilize for different purpose
- ▶ Area for Jhuming/shifting cultivation (4 different modes)
- ▶ Terrace field (rain fed and perennial)
- ▶ Areas for home garden , orchards
- ▶ Community forest/conserve areas, animal sanctuary, rainforest)
- ▶ Green belt and spring cushion areas
- ▶ Grooves- bamboo, spirit grooves, thatch, gooseberry etc
- ▶ woodland areas- for fuel wood
- ▶ Settlement areas
- ▶ Grazing areas



Biodiversity and Conservation Practices

- ▶ Maintenance of diverse crop varieties and animal breeds
- ▶ Every village maintain Community Conserved Areas
- ▶ 83 percent of the land under forest cover
- ▶ Regulate jhum fallow for fast regenerations
- ▶ Integrate sustainable wild life management (animal sanctuary, regulate harvesting, bee keeping)
- ▶ Regenerating follows land- a mosaic of stages of secondary forest suitable for wild life habitat
- ▶ Selective retaining of different species according to utility (for household's needs, economic & ecological)



Selection of Species for Retention in the Fallows Land

Utility categories		No of Species	Management practice (form of retention)							
			Lopped	As Trunk	As Root stubs	Lopped/ Trunk stubs	Trunk/ Rootstubs	Lopped/ Trunk/ Rootstubs	Lopped/ Trunk/ Introduced	Lopped/ Introduced
Consumption	Wild Edible	20	2	12	0	1	1	2	1	1
	Pole, fencing construction	32	1	10	0	12	3	5	0	0
	Agricultural Tools, utensils	22	1	13	0	3	2	2	1	0
	Trellis/ support	32	6	9	0	9	3	4	1	0
	Medicinal, dye other uses	24	0	12	0	5	2	3	2	0
	Fuelwood	15	0	7	0	4	1	1	3	1
Economic	Timber	17	2	4	0	4	0	1	3	3
Ecological	Contour bunding (Erosion control)	27	1	7	0	10	3	5	1	0
	Weed control/ moisture retention	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Green cover	58	4	31	0	13	4	5	1	0
	Nutrient enrichment	22	0	7	0	6	4	3	2	0

Diversity of Local Food Source

Varieties of Crop Grown in South Tusom		Resources from the Fallow in South Tusom		Resource Inventory in Hungdung Godah		
Resources	Types	Resources	Types	Production Sub System	Names of Resources	Number
Rice	12 +	Wild Veg	27	Terrace field	Rice cultivar	4
Maize	3+	Herbs	61	Home garden	Vegetables	13
Chilly	5	Mushroom	16	Jhum field	Rice cultivar	15
Tuber	5	Bamboo shoots	3		Vegetables	45
Spices	7	Game meat	27		Other	9
Runners	5 +4	Wild fowl	80+	Jhum Fallow	leafy veg	42
Rice/rice bean	3+2	Wasp	7		Mushroom	33
creepers	5	Honey bee	6		Bees	18 (7 h bees, 11 wasp)
Total	51+		225	River	Fish	13
					Insects	14
				Total		330

Conservation of Indigenous Knowledge and Innovations

- ▶ Knowledge are transferred, learn through practice, observations interaction and applied contextually
- ▶ Knowledge are generated through collective action and social processes- reflected as part of our holistic way of life
- ▶ Respect for land vis-a-vis good ecological knowledge
- ▶ Customary land tenure system contributes to diversity of landscape, biodiversity, language (220 dialects)
- ▶ Strong interpersonal relations and network enrich IK
- ▶ Peace and security in our territories is a pre-requisite and an indicator for the practice and transfer of IK.



THANK YOU

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