

LAC North Coastal Andhra 5.1.1/Thiru Doe/ Draft Action
Plan Ver. 1.

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Dear Shruti,

I guess you must have realised this yourself, but the draft needs a lot more improvement and information. At present it is more of a listing in every section, which need to be detailed. Moreover the SAPs are more of recommendations and have to be built upon a great deal. Maybe the Telugu version has more details? If yes, do let us know.

Perhaps the statistics would fill in some information; it would still not be adequate in its present form. Also could you indicate which are the statistics in the Telugu version which have not been typed in.

More specific suggestions within the text. Pl. communicate these to Sanyasi Raju as well.

Thanks!

Kanchi, 12.3.02

FIRST DRAFT OF
NORTH COASTAL ANDHRA SUB-STATE SITE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
A Part of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Nodal Agency: Grameena Punarnirmana Kendram, Kurupam.

Co-ordinator: K. Sanyasi Raju

I INTRODUCTION

1) BRIEF BACKGROUND TO THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (SAP)

This SAP is a part of the NBSAP process, which began in the year 2000. The NBSAP envisages action plans at four levels, which also includes the sub-state level. The two districts of Vizianagaram and Srikakulam have been assigned as the North Coastal Andhra sub-state site for the state of Andhra Pradesh. (In addition to this, AP also has a sub-state site in the Deccan Area, co-ordinated by the Deccan Development Society. The nodal agency assigned to co-ordinate the formulating of action plans at this level for North Coastal Andhra is Grameena Punarnirmana Kendram (GPK), based in village Kurupam, Distt. Vizianagaram. The co-ordinator is K. Sanyasi Raju.

2) SCOPE OF THE SAP

Five major elements are being covered in this SAP. These include:

- a) Adivasi (tribal) Livelihoods (including a people's analysis of Joint Forest Management (JFM)/ Vana Samrakshana Samiti (VSS), and the role of the Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC).
- b) Medicinal Plants (with a focus on the rights of indigenous healers and their patients).
- c) District-level education and awareness generation requirements.
- d) Livelihoods of Fisherfolk
- e) Micro-level planning for the twin villages of Kurupam and Sivannapeta which are on the periphery of the forest.

3) OBJECTIVES OF THE SAP

- a) To make recommendations for action plans which would lead to sustainable development in the area, with a focus on the livelihoods of natural-resource dependent people, especially adivasis.
- b) To suggest strategies and action plans to conserve biodiversity in the area.
- c) To make recommendations regarding regeneration of endangered biodiversity.
- d) To suggest SAPs to check the threats faced by wild and domesticated flora and fauna.
- e) To ensure that the balance of nature is maintained.
- f) To recommend action plans which, if implemented successfully, could be used as examples in other relevant sites.

4) CONTENTS (will be entered last)

5) DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODOLOGY USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE SAP

- 1) The co-ordinator attended the Innaugural National Workshop at New Delhi on 23rd. and 24th. June, 2000.

- 2) A Local Area Committee (LAC) was formed, and LAC meetings were held on 6th Oct. 2000 at village Kurupam, and on 15th Oct., 2000 at the Nehru Yuva Kendra, Vizianagaram. (Annex. 1. LAC list and LAC minutes to be attached)
- 3) The co-ordinator visited LAC members at their hamlet/village/town and discussed the NBSAP in detail, with a focus on the role of that particular member.
- 4) The Telugu Call for Participation was widely distributed by the nodal agency.
- 5) A document on the local SAP process was prepared in Telugu with the help of an LAC member and distributed to district-level NGOs of the sub-state site.
- 6) Documents pertaining to relevant statistics and ongoing programmes that relate to biodiversity from various points of view were collected from district-level officials who were approached for this purpose. (Annex. 2. List of documents collected to be attached)
- 7) Village-level meetings and consultations were held by the nodal agency at various sites with the help of relevant LAC members. The relevant TPCG member also actively attended a number of these meetings. (Annex. 3. List of villages and details of meetings held to be attached)
- 8) A number of meetings have been photographed.
- 9) Workshops conducted: A two-day adivasi workshop at Boddamanaguda, A workshop with 50 primary school teachers of Kurupam, Adivasi Food and Nutrition Workshop for the self-help youth groups, Thodu and Yamnaba, comprising mostly of adivasis.
- 10) Co-ordinator of the LAC, along with LAC tribal member attended the NBSAP Mid- term workshop in Delhi.
- 11) A series of consultations spread over ten days related to micro planning for the twin villages of Kurupam and Sivannapeta.
- 12) Questionnaire pertaining to JFM/VSS and some aspects of GCC projects were prepared and used to guide consultations. Documents provided by TPCG members were also referred to while preparing these questionnaires. (Would be useful to have these questionnaires as annexure).
- 13) Questionnaire and simple format for project proposals pertaining to education were prepared and used to guide relevant consultations in addition to workshop discussions that were documented.
- 14) Questionnaire pertaining to micro planning was prepared and used to guide discussions during micro-planning consultations.
- 15) Relevant LAC member organized the first ever meeting of indigenous healers in the area to discuss issues related to medicinal plants and access and benefit sharing.
- 16) Co-ordinator of the LAC attended the NBSAP Southern Regional Workshop in Pastapur.
- 17) The assigned NBSAP TPCG (Technical and Policy Core Group) Member from the National-level attended and helped to facilitate the first two LAC meetings, and a series of training and orientation sessions, including both the Adivasi Workshops, village consultations, meeting with indigenous healers and micro-level planning meetings.
- 18) In the course of the above mentioned proceedings, the following categories have been consulted: farmers, traders, adivasis, NGO activists, youth activists, mahila mandalis, panchayat and local self-government leaders and groups, VSS members, officials, indigenous healers, cattle breeders, vegetable growers, and a large number of rural women, men, girls and boys.

II PROFILE OF THE AREA

1) GEOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

-Size: 12, 137 Sq. Km.

-Location: North Coastal Andhra Pradesh Districts of Vizianagaram and Srikakulam. This is a part of the Eastern Ghats and the East Coast of India.

-Longitudes and Latitudes of both Distts. (to be added)

Any unique attributes like a district having both the coast and the forests?

2) SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE*

-Total population: 44,32,069

-Male: 21,70,724

-Female: 22,61,345

-Adivasis: 3,24,252

-Tribes present: Jatapu, Savara, Konda Dora, Gadaba.

-Dependent on Agriculture: 73% of the population.

-Other major occupation: Fishing. (number of fishing villages to be mentioned).

Is this primarily an Adivasi Belt? If yes, it would be good to highlight that. Also amongst the tribes, are all Scheduled Tribes? Which are the other occupations? Are the Adivasis also engaged in agriculture and fishing?

* Statistics according to the 1991 census.

3) POLITICAL PROFILE

-The sub-state site covers the entire Parliamentary constituencies of Parvatipuram, Srikakulam and Bobbili. It also touches upon parts of Visakhapatnam Parliamentary constituency.

-It covers 25 Legislative Assembly constituencies.

-It also covers 7 municipalities.

-A five-tiered system of Panchayati Raj (local self- government) prevails in the rural areas.

-There are 5 Revenue Divisions. (The Revenue system devolves to the Mandal level in Andhra Pradesh).

-Schedule V Adivasi areas are present in the sub-state site. (Which tribes?)

4) ECOLOGICAL PROFILE

(Selected relevant statistics from Distt. Profiles and State Agricultural Profile and Forest Dept. have to be keyed in) Soil, Water resources?

5) BRIEF HISTORY

(to be compiled)

III CURRENT (KNOWN) RANGE AND STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY

1) STATUS OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND PLANT/ANIMAL SPECIES

(to be keyed in)

2) STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND DOMESTICATED PLANT/ANIMAL SPECIES AND VARIETIES

(to be keyed in)

IV STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO BIODIVERSITY

1) PROXIMATE CAUSES FOR LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

Wild Plants:

- Felling of trees in forest areas due to influences from the outside world?? What is this outside world, need to be more specific..
- Introduction of monoculture species (by whom?) such as cashew under developmental schemes which are now being regretted (by whom?) and which were taken up due to lack of awareness/ knowledge regarding conserving the diversity of crop species.
- Decrease in the number of large trees due to the reasons mentioned above has led to the decrease of plants in the lower layers, including medicinal plants.
- Soil erosion on the hill slopes has affected the floral diversity on the foothills.

Domesticated Plants:

- A small number of high-yielding varieties have replaced a large variety of traditional crops. (This mainly applies to the non-tribal areas).
- Traditional crops such as red gram which fetch a greater price in the outside market are grown to the exclusion of other traditional crops such as ragi for which there is not much demand in the market outside. (This applies to tribal as well as non-tribal areas). (What has been the impact and how has it led to biodiversity loss??)

Livestock??

Wild Animals:

Subsequent ←

- a) Hunting
- b) Loss of Habitat
- c) Food and water poisoning

Domesticated Animals:

- a) Lack of fodder/ grazing grounds
- b) Lack of shelter

These need to be elaborated further and explained in the context of the substate site

Proximate causes for the loss of marine, freshwater biodiversity/livelihoods in the context of biodiversity, if any? These could be commercial fishing, coastal sand mining etc. Else would remain a major gap.

2) ROOT CAUSES FOR THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

- a) Commercialization of natural resources
- b) Unsustainable models of development which have failed to ensure that natural-resource dependent communities be direct beneficiaries of value added to diverse traditional crops and species
- c) Introduction of planning/developmental schemes without consulting local communities or making them aware of possible alternatives, and of repercussions of models introduced. (Lack of research and information available to the planners and implementers also)
- d) Lack of transparency regarding schemes related to natural resources which leads to the failure of these schemes/resources.

Any specific examples from the substate site to substantiate these points.

V MAJOR ACTORS AND THEIR CURRENT ROLES RELEVANT TO BIODIVERSITY

Each one of the activities below would need to be spoken about in relation to biodiversity of the region.

1) GOVERNMENTAL

- Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA)
- District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)
- Distt. Agricultural Depts.
- Distt. Horticulture Depts.
- Distt. Fisheries Depts.
- Animal Husbandry Depts.
- Irrigation and Power Depts.
- Education Depts.
- Forest Deptt.
- Distt. Groundwater Authorities
- Pollution Control Board (one for both Distts.)
- Girijan Co-operative Corporation
- Agricultural marketing Society
- Distt. Poverty Initiative Project implemented by Velugu (CM's NGO)

2) NON-GOVERNMENTAL

- Sri Seva Samakhya (consisting of 35 NGOs in Srikakulam Distt.)
- Distt. Botanical Society, Srikakulam.
- Youth Development Organization (YDO) Network
- ARDAR plus group of NGOs working with fisherfolk
- Roses, Mundemkhal
- Community Development Centre, Rambhadrapuram
- Citizen's Welfare Society, Parvatipuram
- Thodu (predominantly Jatapu tribal group)
- Yamnaba (Savara tribal group)
- Thanemem (Savara tribal group)

More details?!

3) LOCAL COMMUNITIES (RURAL AND URBAN)

Fishing communities, farmers, adivasis, cattle rearers, vegetable growers, indigenous healers.

4) DONORS

- Actionaid
- Deccan Development Society
- Oxfam

(list to be expanded)

5) INDUSTRY AND CORPORATE SECTOR: LOCALLY SITUATED INDUSTRIES IMPACTING THE AREA

- Veera Laboratories, Poosapatirega
- Proposed Industrial Growth Centre, Bobbili
- 3 sugar factories at Amdalvalsa, Bobbili, Bhemasingi
- Ferro Alloys: 3 in Vizianagaram Distt., 1 in Garividi, Srikakulam Distt.
- 9 Jute factories
- Cotton Spinning Industries, Vizianagaram
- A.P. tanneries Ltd., Nellimarla
- Tyre manufacturing industry: Ram Tyres Ltd. at R. G. Peta, Viz. Distt.
- 130 Saw Mills
- Mineral Water Factories (details can be listed)
- Industries manufacturing plastic products (details can be listed)
- J. K. Paper Mills in bordering Raigada, Orissa, pollutes the Nagavalli river.

Detailing needed?!

VI ONGOING BIODIVERSITY- RELATED INITIATIVES

These essentially need to be positive initiatives. The negative ones would be need to be highlighted in the section on major actors and even as examples on threats and causes for the loss of biodiversity.

1) BY THE GOVT:

- Joint Forest management Programmes (JFM) ie Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSS)
- State Govt.'s Clean and Green Programme
- Janmabhoomi Programme
- Jalayagyam (Water- related voluntary action)
- SPANDAND. (Their co-ordination, procedures are not specified)
- CM's Empowerment of Youth (grants to rural youth for self- employment upto one lakh. -This scheme has violated national norms)
- Velugu Project (DPIP project)
- Watershed Management Programme
- DWACRA (Dev. of Women and Child in Rural Area)
- Rythu Bazar Programme
- Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC) Activities
- Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Activities
- Swarnajayanti Rozgar Yojana (Central Govt.)
- National Green Corp(Central Govt.)

2) BY NGOS

- Work done by the NGOs mentioned in section 2) above, primarily related to JFM, Community Biodiversity Registers (CBRs), Food and Nutrition, and working with fisherfolk. (details can be enlisted if required- yes would be reqd.)
- Thodu, Yamnaba groups are two self-initiated non- funded groups of Jatapu, Savara tribal and SC youth who have been working on conservation- related issues (like what?), and creating of awareness.

3) COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS

- Partially successful protest against water pollution by Veera Laboratories by local fisherfolk.

-Partially successful protest by local people in neighbouring Visakhapatnam Distt. against the setting up of Birla Periclast factory.

-Public Interest Litigation: *Samatha Vs. State* (Srikakulam Distt.)

Definitely more details of the above would be needed.

VII GAP ANALYSIS

1) GAPS IN INFORMATION (this also needs to include the gaps in information on the biodiversity of the region-status, info on loss etc.

a) JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT (JFM/ VSS)

-Selection of Species for JFM was conducted with inadequate focus on biodiversity concerns.

-Information regarding identification of location and fixing of borders for VSS sites was not dealt with appropriately or not given enough focus.

-People not made aware of all their rights under JFM scheme.

-All do not have access to information regarding VSS records for their site.

There would be a need to highlight the basis of the above statements. Are they from village meetings? There is would be a need to add the source of conclusionst.

b) GIRIJAN CO-OPERATIVE CORPORATION (GCC) SCHEMES

Comments same as that for JFM

-Tribals not aware of all their rights under GCC schemes.

-Tribals do not have a way to know prevailing/current/ seasonal market prices of NTFPs sold by them.

-Tribals not always aware of which items GCC has a monopoly over.

-Tribals not aware of how to add value to their raw material and to develop cottage industries, and especially not aware of the magnitude to which it should benefit them from the point of view of equity.

c) MEDICINAL PLANTS

-Indigenous healers not aware of which of the plants have been enlisted by the outside?? world.

-Gap in information due to the use of scientific terms, non-local languages while enlisting medicinal plants.

-Many healers not yet aware of all the threats faced by their profession with regard to patents etc.

d) DISTRICT-LEVEL EDUCATION (please refer to Education under Action Points for micro-planning ie Ch IX-9.)

e) LIVELIHOODS OF FISHERFOLK (to be entered once received from ARDAR NGO)

2)GAPS IN VISION (also about vision in district planning, state/district/local priorities?)

a) JFM/ VSS

-No consultative planning on how much to harvest, and what percentage will be for the VSS.

-Not considered the rights of those who do not fall within VSS sites but who used to be beneficiaries of the same natural resources.

-When NTFPs are grown under VSS, then GCC would be buying them. Lack of inter-departmental co-ordination in terms of GCC's planning.

b) GCC

-GCC is focussing only on buying and marketing and not looking at sustainable growth.

-Not looking at long-term financial empowerment of adivasis.

??! Details.

c) MEDICINAL PLANTS

-Key actors had not addressed the issue of patents and IPRs in such a manner which would significantly benefit indigenous healers or their traditional patients.

d) DISTRICT- LEVEL EDUCATION (Please refer to Ch. IX-9.)

e) LIVELIHOODS OF FISHERFOLK (awaited from ARDAR NGO)

3) GAPS IN POLICY AND LEGAL STRUCTURE

a) JFM/ VSS

The entire Vana Samrakshana Samithi hinges on a G.O. (Govt. Order) in the state of A.P. This creates a sense of insecurity, which is justified, going by specific instances in the sub-state site where the JFM/ VSS was cancelled by the govt., and the land put to other use. Why is this the case? More analysis.

b) GCC

The GCC should not?? This is more of a recommendation and would need to be built as a strategy and subsequent action plan. Here more the gap is towards that strategy is needed. have monopoly rights over NTFPs if it continues to function and to be structured the way it is.

c) MEDICINAL PLANTS

No legal structure exists, that is easily accessible to indigenous healers to protect their rights.

This is to be noted in the context of international and domestic developments in the field of Intellectual Property Rights. A system for benefit- sharing needs to be worked out. In addition to this, indigenous healers do not have a license to practise, unlike Ayurvedic healers. As a result, their activities of healing are technically illegal operations as of today. This needs to be corrected through relevant legislation/rules which recognize indigenous healers as legitimate healers. However, it would be important to create a system that can distinguish between traditional healers and quacks going into rural areas.

d) DISTRICT-LEVEL EDUCATION (Please refer to CH. IX-9.)

e) LIVELIHOODS OF FISHERFOLK (Awaited from ARDAR NGO).

4) GAPS IN INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITY

a) JFM/ VSS

The state govt. has been employing a target-oriented approach in terms of the number of JFM projects underway, without the human capacity to support it from the side of the govt.

Forest Dept. has not used/ tapped the local citizen's capacity at various stages of decision- making and planning.

b) GCC

GCC as an institution should have a greater Adivasi presence. ie., Adivasis (who amongst the adivasis? There is a need to build an SAP keeping the cross cutting themes in mind. Would it be the adults of each family? should have more of a control and say in GCC planning as well as decision- making in a de-centralized fashion.

GCC should conduct training for building capacity among adivasis for value- addition to raw materials and to promote cottage industries, as this is an existing gap.

What are the gaps, these are again more of recommendations.

c) Medicinal Plants

Indigenous healers are currently unorganized and need to plan how to access and share benefits from their knowledge and supply of medicinal plants.

There is no co-ordination between healers and GCC regarding sale and use of 87 medicinal plants under GCC monopoly.

d) DISTRICT-LEVEL EDUCATION (Please refer to Ch. IX-9)

e) LIVELIHOODS OF FISHERFOLK (Awaited from ARDAR NGO.)

VII MAJOR STRATEGIES TO FILL THESE GAPS AND TO ENHANCE/ STRENGTHEN ONGOING MEASURES

Do refer to the format for sample SAPs sent out to all EAs.

1. Creation of awareness regarding the value and importance of biodiversity conservation amongst various sectors.
2. Creation of awareness regarding local communities' rights over their natural resources.
3. Educating farmers regarding new threats faced by them. Eg.: The effect of genetically modified crops, chemical fertilizers, policies of multi-national seed companies etc.
4. Creation of a regular co-ordination system/ network through which local citizens can analyze proposed and ongoing development schemes of the govt.
5. To promote traditional cultural practices aimed at celebrating and appreciating biodiversity.
6. To screen and monitor the impact of proposed and ongoing industries and so-called developmental activities.
7. To educate people so that their individual actions do not harm biodiversity.
8. To create a forum?(same or separate for coasts and forests) which enables citizens to lobby for and legally demand their rights over natural resources.
9. To create a system which spreads local biodiversity related news and events across the two districts.
10. To enhance the livelihoods of natural- resource- dependent communities in a manner which gives an impetus to their traditional methods of biodiversity conservation. Eg., Through promotion of cottage industries.
11. To compile data regarding customary law and practices of all the tribes in the area with a focus on control over natural resources and gender roles.
12. To initiate selected models for specific activities based on consultations that have taken place. These "models" will primarily be for the benefit of the two districts.
13. To try and "mainstream" biodiversity issues/ concerns into Panchayat activities, and to try and ensure the efficient functioning of these bodies.

IX REQUIRED ACTIONS TO FILL THESE GAPS AND ENHANCE/ STRENGTHEN ONGOING MEASURES

1. Local Biodiversity Network:

One local NGO each will co-ordinate a Biodiversity Network of NGOs and individuals belonging to each of the two districts. The aim of this network will be to indicate the need for, initiate or facilitate specific activities related to research, creation of awareness and education, and action pertaining to biodiversity conservation and local livelihood needs in the district. The process through which this is done will also generate the a substantial degree of awareness. The main focus will be on education and awareness aimed at various sectors. The aim is to create levels of awareness which will also snowball into independent behaviour and activities at individual, group, community, village and other political levels in the two districts.

Proposed activities: Develop a panel of resource persons for imparting biodiversity- related knowledge, especially in the field of agricultural diversity, intellectual property rights and medicinal plants.

Form a District Biodiversity Guiding Group (DBGG) co-ordinated by the same NGO that co-ordinates the District Biodiversity Network.

Initial activities of the DBGG would be:

Make a list of social organizers (individuals): One for a cluster of three mandals in the Distt. (Approx. 10 organizers for each district).

Prepare or co-ordinate the preparation of a local awareness handbook and materials.

The District Biodiversity Generation Handbook will be used to inform the mandal- cluster level social organizers. It will contain the following information in the local language:

The meaning and value of biodiversity

Brief outline of District, State, National and International trends regarding domesticated and wild biodiversity.

Link between local people's livelihoods and biodiversity concerns.

Ongoing initiatives by govt., NGOs, and citizens with special reference to the local area.

Discussions regarding required actions in the local area.

(The document will also draw from the sub-state BSAP and the minutes/ reports of the consultations held while preparing the local BSAP.)

After this handbook is compiled or prepared, organize and conduct the first workshop for these social organizers.

Which NGOs need to/will take the initiative to co-ordinate the two districts in the forums? Will there be any funds needed for the co-ordination of activities?

Co-ordinate and facilitate the first field workshops to be conducted by each of these social organizers. (At least one DBGG member must be present at each of these workshops.)

DBGG will review the outcome of these workshops and chart its further agenda to facilitate and co-ordinate implementation.

2. ACTIONS FOR SALVAGING JFM:

BSAP consultations indicated the following:

At the start of the JFM project, the process was not consultative as it was meant to be, especially regarding boundaries for sites, specie selection etc.

There is no transparency regarding accounts regardless of the claims of the forest dept.

People were paid labour charges for working on their JFM sites, and this sole activity was sufficient to term their involvement as "participation".

The JFM scheme for each of the samithies hinges on a Govt. Order, which gives rise to a feeling of insecurity. It is not a desirable system.

However, if it has to continue, the following needs to be done:

Regular public display of accounts. (who does the responsibility lie with??)

Complaints made should be widely publicised, even through the BSAP-proposed district- level Biodiversity Newsletter.

There should be a system of co-ordination with the BSAP-proposed Distt. Biodiversity Law Forum for required action if necessary.

For further points, please refer to suggestions from Adivasi Review Workshop described in (9) below.

3. THERE SHOULD BE A DISTRICT BIODIVERSITY NEWSLETTER to be brought out in Telugu as well as in English. [3000 Telugu copied and 2000 English copies.]

For the purpose, an editorial team of three plus editor, eight reporters, two photographers, one graphic artist (optional), one secretarial help, postage, translation and printing costs for a ten- page document to be brought out on a monthly basis would be required. This would be circulated free of cost or at a nominal cost.

Any costing needed? Who would generate the funds for the publication of the newsletter?

4. THERE SHOULD BE A DISTRICT BIODIVERSITY LAW FORUM.

Immediate action to lead to the formal setting up of such a forum:

Organization of a Joint Bar Councils Workshop for the two Districts. Proposed organizers: Parvatipuram Bar Council in co-ordination with NBSAP TPCG member.

More details!! The gap analysis need to highlight the need for such a forum.

5. PREPARATION OF LOCAL MEDIA PRODUCTS (FIRST STEPS):

Local Writers Workshop to be held to decide how to popularise biodiversity- conservation related views.

Labelling of trees in village areas using eco-friendly materials. (suggestions required.)

Preparation of a roster of translators and support for these individuals on a requirement basis.

One workshop in each district for management- level persons from local newspapers to discuss the inclusion of features, news items and other columns on biodiversity- related issues on a regular basis in the local press.

Electronic Media Workshop for relevant persons to discuss the scope for preparing and inclusion of biodiversity- related programmes.

Responsibility??

6. GIRIJAN CO-OPERATIVE CORPORATION (GCC) POLICIES:

Rather than there being a GCC monopoly through which GCC buys raw materials from tribals, there should be capacity- building for small- scale cottage industries at village and hamlet levels, and GCC should restrict its role to advertising such products, and facilitating the marketing of them in such a way that a large margin of profits reach the tribal community which should be able to make the decision of how to use the profits. This entire process should be transparent.

Responsibility??

At present, the tribals need to be made more aware of the current list of NTFP items that GCC is buying from the tribals.

At the shanty- inspector stage, the problem is that the shanty inspectors do not give the proper rate. (There is a need for the tribals to have access to updated information on current rates of produce in the outside world.). Also, they do not always buy all the stock from the tribals. Stock gets rejected. Skill- training on how to collect certain NTFPs is required. There are problems with grading the quality of NTFPs which need to be addressed. There have also been instances of tribals being cheated through the use of faulty weighing instruments.

At the GCC DR (Daily ration) Depot level, ie., the salesman stage, the problem is with tribals receiving a low quality of products from GCC.

Capacity to store produce locally and add value or wait for a good price before selling is required. For this, detailed micro-level consultations are required to ascertain which cottage industry to encourage in which hamlet or village. BSAP consultations have led to some suggestions which could be treated as pilot projects. Some details, which emerged from village- level consultations and especially from the Adivasi Review Workshop held on 25th Jan. 2002 at Bodammanaguda, are described below.

7. DETAILED SUGGESTIONS FROM ADIVASI REVIEW WORKSHOP:

Wouldn't this be better as an annexure? For a section/chapter on SAPs one would need to draw from these suggestions and develop them further.

The workshop was attended by persons from the following villages of Vizianagaram District:

Gottivada, Gunjarada, Boddamanaguda, Shantinagar, Kakitada, Udayapuram, Gujjuvai, Gujjubai Sivada, Mantikonda, Neradimanaguda, Daringpadu, Sampanagoda, Icchapuram, Sobba, Tolunguda, Kosinguda, Neelakanthapuram, Gorada, Kurupam, Deppigoda, Rayimanaguda, Relliguda, Okkri, Yetamanaguda, Kottaguda, Marimanaguda, Damguda, Peddagottili, Baramaniguda, Gandhinagar, Chintalukuridi, Advalamguda, Sadunuguda, Kuntubai, Diguvuru. (more villages were there- list to be completed by nodal agency.)

Ten groups, consisting of approximately ten people each, were requested to fine-tune various aspects of discussion which have originated in the course of NBSAP consultations, including from the earlier Adivasi Workshop. These aspects were the broad issues which had been identified, and strategies, for example, the broad strategy indicating that instead of GCC and/ or others buying raw produce and NTFPs from the local people, they should prefer to develop small- scale cottage industries in their villages.

An attempt was made, to make a sample listing of required cottage industries and/or facilities for specific sites.

Workshop GROUP 1

This group dealt with Miscellaneous Suggestions for Cottage Industries in their villages.

Village Gujjuvai:

Tamarind: Training for de-seeding of tamarind required. GCC should not stop tribals from marketing de- seeded tamarind to others.

Cashew is a horticultural cash crop and has in many places replaced traditional crops This impinged on women's control over nutrition and resources, and was pointed out at an earlier meeting with the Mahila Mandali of Rasta Kuntubai). However, since it is being grown and sold, tribals should be able to sell this to the outside market and not to private dealers who come to them. Requirement: Storage and credit facility for the Mahila mandalis to do this. However, it was also argued by other non- tribal and tribal local leaders in the present workshop, that giving this responsibility to Mahila Mandalis was not the final solution, as the accountability will not be adequate. One should instead attempt, in the long run, to make the existing bodies such as the GCC, Panchayats etc. accountable.

Facilities for cottage industries for turmeric would also be appropriate in this village.

Village Sampannagoda:

Van/ transport facilities for marketing Cashew required.

Village Mavadimanaguda:

Van/ transport facilities for marketing Cashew required.

Village Darindpadu:

GCC should get us better rates for tamarind.

Village Bodammanaguda:

Cashew: Instead of selling to the middle-man, we require to be able to sell directly to the market.

Village Kedavai:

Turmeric: It is being sold to the middle-men. The community should be able to sell it directly to the outside market. Cashew: Storage facility and credit facility through Mahila Mandal required.

The above six villages also said that they could develop cottage industries for the following: nallajeedi (marking nut?), mushidikaya, yanduga pikkalu (for water purification), tamarind, mahua flower, mahua seed, kanuga pikkalu (an oilseed), neem seed, pulerupikkalu, naramamidi (traditionally liquor making- sealing material, for the outside world- aggarbatties, light weight toys etc out of the gum). At present, they do not get a reasonable price for these things. Training for developing the product, training and facilities for packaging (ecofriendly) and marketing required.

Workshop GROUP 2

This group discussed proposals related to Seed Storage.

Members of Kakitada, Diguvuru, Kottaguda, Rayimaneguda, Boddamanaguda and Gujjuvai villages listed some traditional forms of seed storage in their village, and said that these should continue, and should be encouraged to continue- it should remain conducive to continue these methods of seed storage. In addition, they said that some of these methods could be popularised elsewhere, for which they could produce and market/develop the materials in the form of cottage industries:

Anapakayi is a kind of gourd which is dried and seeds such as korra biyam (ramdana?) are stored in it.

Ropes made of a variety of locally available grasses are made into bowls and seeds are stored in them.

A recipe of three ingredients (nalla jeedi, skin of drumsticks, and a particular ash) for storing red, green and black gram was described.

Bamboo containers are also used for storage.

For natural compost, tangedu leaves are used.

Workshop GROUP 3

This group discussed Honey.

Members of Gunjavada, Icchapram, Udaypuram, Gandhinagar and others dealt with this topic. Suggestions pertain primarily to these villages.

Right now, they are collecting Pedda Teni (honey collected by large bees) from the forest, and selling it to GCC at approx. Rs. 25 or 30 per 750 ml.

But there are two other types of honey (Borra Teni and Isukakarra Teni) in the forest which can be made using boxes. For this, training and materials are required such as honey box, filter, water pots for bees etc.)

Also, Chinna Teni (small bees) can be used here for bee-keeping.

Workshop GROUP 4

This group discussed How to Improve Development Schemes:

Members of Sampanagoda, Kuntubai, Chintalakurudi, Yeguva Kadavi, Mantikonda, Votaguda and Tolunguda participated in this discussion.

Adameswar Rao of Tolunguda said, "For all development programmes in our area to be successful, we need the co-operation of people from the outside world in various ways...also for progress, the local people should be able to control and benefit from the trees around them...in order for locals to understand any development scheme etc., everyone should be educated...education is a requirement...govt. development planners should be regularly available to village groups to know what they have to say."

The group added that when the govt. makes its plans, it should consult people in the villages.

Workshop GROUP 5

This group discussed Marketing Agricultural Products, Nurseries and Cattle.

Members of Yetamanaguda, Sampanagoda and others villages (list to be completed) contributed to this discussion. Suggestions pertain primarily to these villages.

An example of what is going on: They are selling one quintal of Kandulu gram at Rs. 800, whereas the outside rate is Rs. 1,200 per quintal.

There are other such rates for other products including ginger.

Therefore, a godown is required. One godown for ten villages will be appropriate.

This will give them time to find out current rates and sell to the party that gives the best rates. Right now, these agricultural products are being sold to whichever private dealer comes first, and at whatever rate is given.

Village Nurseries: There should be nurseries for fruit, plus training.

At one time, ITDA (Integrated Tribal Development Agency) had introduced satellite nurseries on small patches of land. These failed, and are not there. They failed because they were only target-oriented in the wrong direction. Eg., Rs. 7,000 was divided into instalments per satellite for planting outside varieties of mango only.

There should again be the satellite-nursery-type projects through ITDA, but of a variety of indigenous varieties, and the plan should be made after consulting the people. (ITDA will have a list of satellite nurseries that they had, with further details.)

Cattle: Earlier, each tribal village had 200- 300 cattle. Now, they are keeping fewer cattle because of non-availability of fodder from grazing grounds. If the forests increase, fodder will be available.

Workshop GROUP 6

This group discussed Pickles, Powders, Cosmetics, Mats

Members of Rayamanaguda, Gujjubai Sivada, Udayapuram, Damguda and others (list to be completed) participated in this discussion. Suggestions pertain primarily to these villages.

Requirements for processing and marketing: Training, loans, mills for powders etc. of the following products: Pickles: mango, tamarind, usiri (amla), drumsticks. Powders: red gram, turmeric, tamarind leaves, curry leaves, wild chillies. All these are organic, and grown without chemicals.

Members of Rayamanaguda also said they have materials for trifala, and support for developing and marketing this is required.

Cosmetics: These particular villages could develop aloe, soap nut for washing hair and bramhi leaves for washing hair.

Mats: Fibres available to make mats: jute, chamalnara, addanara, kumbinara, kondtomanara and two types of tivvalu.

These can be developed further.

Currently, there are no govt. projects for these.

Workshop GROUP 7

This group discussed Oilseeds, Leaf Plates, Bamboo, Wood in the context of lopping for local products instead of other possible trends was also discussed.

Members of Relliguda, Kosinguda, Tolunguda and others villages (list to be completed) participated in this discussion. Suggestions pertain primarily to these villages.

Oilseeds: vippa (mahua seed for oil), kanuga, aamudamu, neem, valisalli, small-sized sunflower. These are the seeds available in the wild. In this area.

Cultivated: nuvvulu.

Local oil press and storage/ packaging materials are required.

Leaf Plates: Materials are available for making plates. The following leaves are used: adda leaves, modikakulu and gugilam (sal). To produce and market these for outside, leaf presses are required. Also, training for marketing is required.

Bamboo: Hen coops, vegetable baskets, seed storage and paddy baskets. For these, there is a demand locally (in forst villages). But the use of this should be encouraged. People in their own villages, must train more people to make and sell these products.

Regarding Wood: Trees which otherwise stand the danger of being cut for commercial purposes should be only lopped and there should be facilities to add value to this locally. The value thus generated should be much greater than the price of wood. Eg, from trees such as gumpi karra and yapi karra, small boxes can be made. Skill training for this should be given in the local area. Other types of wood relevant to these villages: tada, gummidi (wild teak?), gugilam (saal?)

Workshop GROUP 8

Members of Chintalakuvidi, Mamudimanaguda, Gottivada, Kuntubai, Sampanagoda and other villages (list to be completed) participated in this discussion. This group made the following suggestions:

Every night, there should be a meeting of the entire village to discuss who all are destroying forests, rates of crops and rates of NTFPs at various points etc.

Trees which were traditionally used for making huts are now disappearing. These trees should always be available. Now, people have started cutting other trees for building huts, and this should not happen. The traditional trees for hut-making should not disappear or reduce in numbers.

Workshop GROUP 9

This group discussed Aspects of Village-level Planning.

Members of Baramaniguda, Neradimanaguda, Neradivalasa and other villafes (list to be completed) participated in this discussion.

The following suggestions were made:

There should be village surveys for water sources plus biodiversity.

Only one village cannot make a plan by itself- the neighbouring villages should be consulted.

There should be grama sanghama with regular meetings. (village- level froups should exist) and be trained for making and implementing these plans. This should include plans to protect forests as this will bring rain and water. Water is most important.

Officials should be involved or linked up with these citizens micro-plans which are made.

Workshop GROUP 10

This group made specific suggestions for the working of GCC, VSS and KVK based on their experience. This was a group including non-tribal and tribal persons.

The individuals were: A. Koteswar Rao, District Vice-President, Congress Party, M. Sushila, MPTC, H. Neelakanteshwar Rao, ex-MPP, T. Rama Rao, Teacher, Tikkabai, T. Appa Rao, ex-Munsif, Peddagottili, N. Muralikrishna, Press reporter, Andhra Bhoomi, A. Muralikrishna, Reporter, Andhra Prabha, Bh.V Ravikumar, Student.

GCC should give tribals proper rates.

GCC is buying limited varieties. It should deal with more varieties.

There should be Panchayat-level selling point for tribals. (Purchasing point from GCC perspective).

GCC should give tribals advance payment for collection of NTFPs.

Shanty inspector's role should be limited. Mahila Mandalis should buy from individuals and hand over to shanty inspectors.

At present, there are 800 DR (daily ration) Deptos. GCC should not hand this over to Pvt. Associations, and according to this group, not even to Mahila Mandalis as is being proposed. But there should instead be a fixed system through which Mahila Mandalis can monitor DR Depots.

VSS Vana samrakshana Samithies or JFM): There is mis-utilization of funds. There are no signs of plants growing anywhere through VSS.

Not only the VSS president, but all should know and decide regarding utilization of funds.

In the VSS committee, apart from the forest dept., there should be one member from any other dept. (eg., revenue, irrigation, horticulture, agriculture) in order to keep some sort of check on the forest dept.

KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra): KVK training is limited in terms of area covered.

Training via KVK should be extended to the entire tribal area.

Now, there are limited demonstration sites for limited crops. This should extend to other varieties.

There should be a stronger link between existing farmer's clubs in the district and the KVK.

Research and training on indigenous varieties rather than mono-culture of cash crops is required.

KVK should popularize organic fertilizers and pesticides and not chemical ones.

8. EXISTING FESTIVALS AND SHANTIES

One of the awareness and action-generating exercises of the proposed biodiversity network described earlier would be to use existing local and tribal festivals such as harvest festivals to document, celebrate and generate discussion regarding traditional practices related to conservation.

Salters [An immediate starting point could be the baali panduga which is around the month of March. It is a nine-day festival of Jatapu tribals which takes place in each Jatapu tribal village. All varieties of seeds (red gram, jowar, bajra, ragi, green gram, black gram, paddy etc.) are put in an earthen pot in a hut. Outside, dhoop of saal resin is used to pray to kulla devatas (non-Hindu), veedhi devudus (street gods). During this time, there are restrictions. The intipedda (big person of the house) has to fast. No oil is used during these days. This is a system that used be meant for monitoring the quality of the ecosystem.

Similarly, linking with local shaties for awareness exercises will be one of the immediate activities taken up by the network.

9. ACTION PLAN FOR TWIN VILLAGES OF KURUPAM AND SIVANNAPETA (MICRO-PLANNING)

The following sets of recommendations are a result of separate meetings with the relevant sectors in the village. Detailed descriptions of discussions at these meetings to be attached as Annexure. The specific recommendations are enlisted below:

DOMESTICATED DIVERSITY (ANIMALS) IN THE VILLAGE

The cattle breeding community which lives on the fringe of the village, not far from Schedule V forest areas, said that they are interested in introducing, on an experimental basis, a gobar gas plant in their street. However, it appears that the emphasis is on experimentation...field visits for them (women and men) to the closest neighbouring areas where this is already in operation could be a first step. The local NGO (NBSAP LAC coordinator) could facilitate. How exactly?

Health requirements of cattle need to be further addressed.

Fodder, water and shelter needs of cattle have to be looked into, especially places for tying cattle at night which were available earlier are not available anymore.

More details!

DOMESTICATED DIVERSITY (PLANTS) IN THE VILLAGE

More details for all the points...at present appear very sketchy.

Horticulture: The vegetable- growing community agreed to:

Prepare compost pits with village garbage separately disposed of by each household, to be collected and deposited by a Panchayat Van. (This will now have to be done).

Packaging and marketing of extra compost as organic fertilizers.

Seed banks to be prepared by involving KVK located near Rastakuntubai near Kurupam.

Groundwater Policy required as water level has fallen due to too many wells.

These vegetable growers use two particular wells in which the water level has fallen. Proposal to motorize these wells with solar motors.

Due to growing population, more vegetables need to be grown. Question of more land being required to grow vegetables- what does one do?!

Awareness and training needs to be created among vegetable growers, regarding new inventions, and their good and bad effect on vegetables, land and health.

Corresponding awareness needs to be created among consumers and citizens.

The horticulture department should be more pro-active, and appropriately inclined with regard to creating awareness, training, capacity building etc.

AGRICULTURE: THE RYTHULUS (FARMERS) SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING:

Water: Existing Neetu Sanghas (what are these Sanghas, would need to be described) have to be contacted regarding clearing of tanks to increase groundwater level.

A Groundwater Policy (is there a policy already, would need to be built?) should be implemented immediately.

A representative from the Agriculture Dept. should personally make regular visits in order to keep farmers informed of developmental schemes and for technical training sessions.

Seed bank to be maintained of all varieties: KVK to be involved.

Activists, scientists, experts etc. could come and create awareness regarding effects of new technologies. (This could now be done in collaboration with the proposed District Biodiversity Network).

PRIMARY EDUCATION IN THE VILLAGE (and applicable to the District, sub-state site and possibly, the state)

A combined centre-class in Kurupam Primary School was attended by about 50 primary school teachers. An inter-school debate, essay-writing and art competition on Nature and Biodiversity was held at the Z.P. High School, Kurupam. (Details to be attached)

The following recommendations emerged:

As of now, standards 3, 4 and 5 have Environmental Science I and EVS II. "Environment" falls under the EVS II paper for all three classes.

In this chapter, one should include aspects of Biodiversity as an integral part of "Environment"

This chapter should be carried forward in class 4 and 5.

There are two ways of doing this: First, and quicker to implement, is to train and make the teachers aware of aspects related to Biodiversity. They could then effectively introduce these aspects into ongoing discussions on "Environment" for which there is already a provision in the syllabus.

A suggestion must be made, to the District Education Officer (DEO) and/or to the Mandal Education Officer (MEO), to send people to train teachers accordingly during a regular Centre Class.

Under the EVS I paper, local geography is taught. Here, too, there could be localised teacher training so that even before it is introduced in the syllabus, teachers could talk about local tribes and their livelihoods and lifestyles, including the value of indigenous knowledge.

The Second step of altering the syllabus would be time-taking, and the state-level process would have to look into it.

Every third Saturday, a Clean and Green Day programme is conducted. Through the Teacher Training Programme of this programme, Biodiversity could be included as a focus. (This could be immediately effective-but materials have to be prepared, such as the proposed District Biodiversity Handbook).

The example of a Feb. 2000 Science Fair which had been very successful was mentioned, and it was said that such a fair had taken place at all the Mandal Headquarters (approx. 30) of the district. In this village, which is a mandal headquarter, 20 schools participated. Rs. 4000 was given by the Education Dept., and 6,000 by citizens. Preparation time was one week. Therefore, such a fest. cost them a total of Rs.10,000.

A similar festival on Biodiversity for schools across the district could be planned and proposed.

At least four schools in and around Kurupam (list available) have sites for gardening/Nature activities. Extra-curricular activity teachers are required for this. The main problem is that the state govt. is not filling these posts.

The Education Dept. has to give directives for the filling up of these posts. Right now, even 'regular subject' posts are not being filled due to the lack of funds towards education from the state govt. This is a problem that will have to be tackled at the state level.

Dance, including local tribal dances, including those celebrating harvests, biodiversity and Nature. There is a Govt. Dance School in the district headquarter (Vizianagaram). Tribal dances and songs are not being taught or popularised there at the moment, and could be included.