

FES

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019



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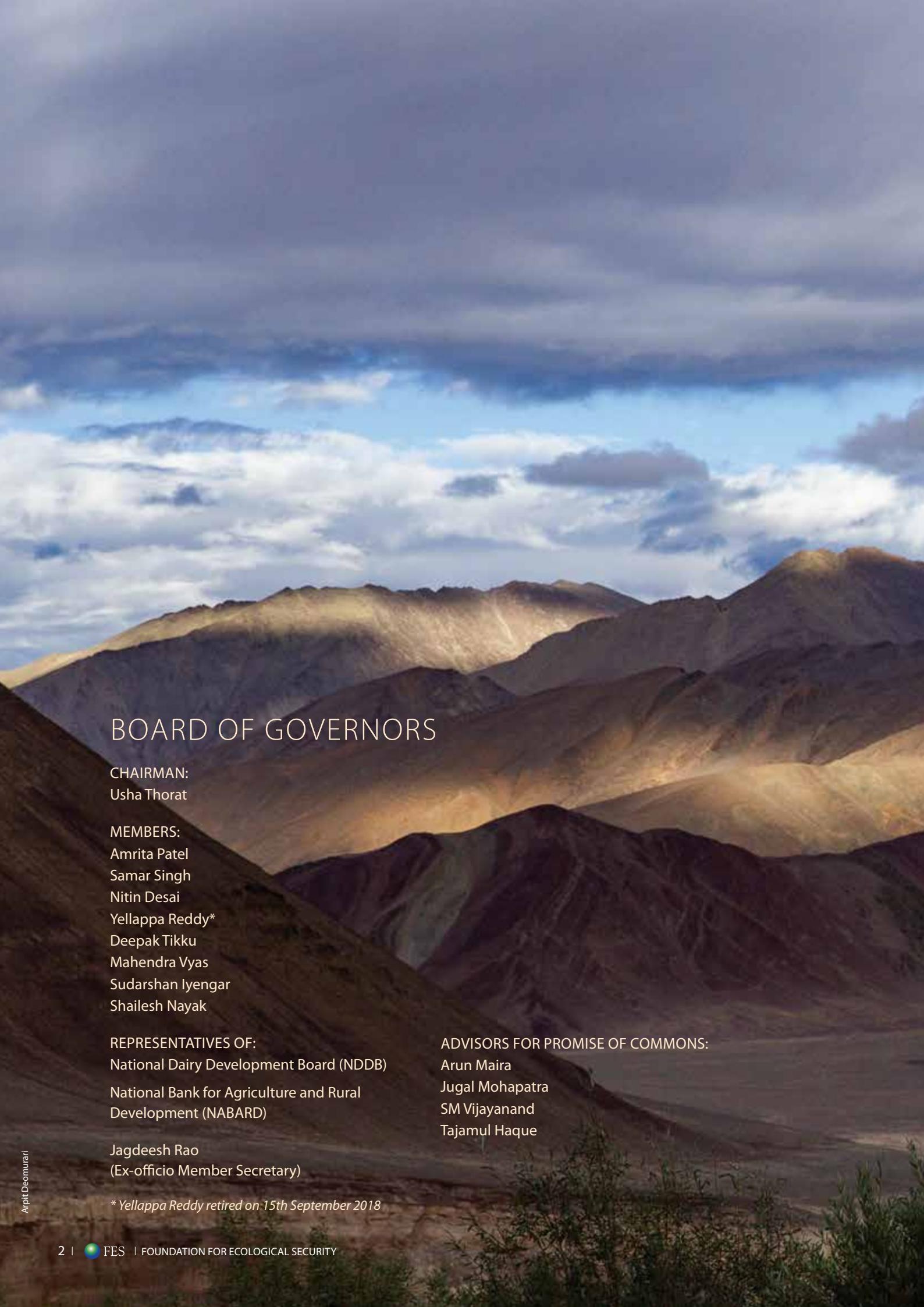
COVER:

"Slash rotters", a sap rot fungi, play a key role in the decomposition of coarse woody debris that contains diverse microhabitats for various organisms. Deadwood is an important structural component in forest ecosystems and plays a significant role in global carbon and nutrient cycling.

Cover Photo: Kumar Rupam



Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI 1860, the Foundation for Ecological Security was set up in 2001 to reinforce the massive and critical task of ecological restoration in the country.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CHAIRMAN:

Usha Thorat

MEMBERS:

Amrita Patel
Samar Singh
Nitin Desai
Yellappa Reddy*
Deepak Tikku
Mahendra Vyas
Sudarshan Iyengar
Shailesh Nayak

REPRESENTATIVES OF:

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural
Development (NABARD)

Jagdeesh Rao
(Ex-officio Member Secretary)

ADVISORS FOR PROMISE OF COMMONS:

Arun Maira
Jugal Mohapatra
SM Vijayanand
Tajamul Haque

* Yellappa Reddy retired on 15th September 2018



OUR MISSION

As 'ecological security' is the foundation of sustainable and equitable development, the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is committed to strengthening, reviving, or restoring, where necessary, the process of ecological succession and the conservation of land, forest and water resources in the country.

To this end FES:

WORKS towards the ecological restoration and conservation of land and water resources in the uplands and other eco-fragile, degraded and marginalised zones of the country, and to this end, to set in place the processes of coordinated human effort and governance, and provide relief to the poor, in particular;

WORKS either directly, or with and through a range of democratic village institutions, their federal bodies and civil society organisations, set up through initiatives that are ecologically sustainable and socially and economically equitable;

ENSURES the ecological integrity of all efforts by working, as far as possible, with entire landscapes and with all the inter-related communities within it, through a range of arrangements on their land and aquatic resources, whether Commons, Public, or Private;

COLLABORATES with Panchayat Raj and other democratic village institutions as well as appropriate civil society organisations, in their efforts to fulfil the objectives of society and to provide technical and financial assistance to them;

UNDERTAKES and sponsors studies and research related to the understanding of ecological processes, the biology and ecology of endemic and endangered species and the various aspects of the political-economy of the associated human communities;

ASSISTS in the creation of a coherent perspective on forest and water-related land-use policy as well as a conducive legal and regulatory environment, and disseminates knowledge and information through dialogue with policymakers, legislators as well as administrators, professionals, other agencies and the public at large.

THE PROMISE OF COMMONS – For Nature and People

Environmental degradation negatively impacts more than **1.2 billion** livelihoods globally.

Over **350 million** people in India lack secure tenure and **access** to shared **natural resources**.

Inadequate and weak governance institutions at the local level result in **exclusion, exploitation and degradation** of natural resources.

Current practices **deplete** available resources, soil health, water table and biodiversity.

Gaps between customary governance and modern practice **alienate** lives dependent on these natural resources.

Commons or Common Pool Resources (CPRs), consisting of community pastures, forests, wastelands and water bodies are fundamental for the sustenance of various life forms and rural livelihoods in the country. They constitute a quarter of India's landmass and are mostly administered by the government. Customary rules and practices are in place to govern these lands. However, in the absence of legal recognition or land titles, the rural communities lack incentives to protect them effectively. As a result, the Commons are neglected to the point of degradation.

In this scenario, FES enables rural communities to organise themselves, secure land rights, evolve resource management plans and access public investments to restore the environment. It engages with relevant governments to advocate for



and implement measures that promote the management and governance of Commons by local communities.

FES harnesses information systems and technology to scale up restoration measures, improve civic engagement and use public funds appropriately. Partnerships with research institutions improves understanding, adds rigour to FES' field interventions and builds evidence.

FES works on three fundamental dimensions of rural life:

- Bringing an ecological leaning to the dominant views of 'natural resource management' and 'rural development' where 'nature and natural processes' are often disregarded or unappreciated.
- Advancing the 'Commons paradigm' in the governance of natural resources, as most bio-physical resources are common pool resources managed well under Common Property Regimes.
- An interdisciplinary approach with equal emphasis on ecological well-being, social justice and access to economic opportunity, and the unique spaces that such an interconnected world view offers.

Besides reasserting the inherent capacities of local people as ecological stewards and catering to a range of local benefits, conserving the Commons has emerged as a promising opportunity to address climate change and meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Recognising Commons' transformational potential, FES aims to –
impact **38 million** people and **30 million acres** of Commons by **2023**,
while disrupting the status quo and repositioning and changing the 50-year-old metaphor of
'Tragedy of Commons' to 'Promise of Commons'.



FES CORE MODEL



SECURE COMMUNITY
LAND RIGHTS



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
AND GOVERNANCE PLANS



ACCESS TO RESOURCES
AND FINANCE



ECOLOGICAL
HEALTH



RESILIENT
LIVELIHOODS

6.27 MILLION ACRES
OF COMMON LAND
RESTORED

10.98 MILLION
LIVES
IMPACTED

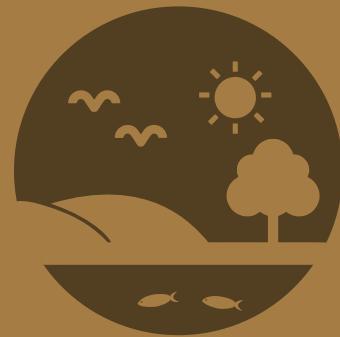
20,155
VILLAGE AND HABITATION
LEVEL INSTITUTIONS
STRENGTHENED



Paul Nordinmann

CORNERSTONES





ECOLOGICAL
RESTORATION



LOCAL
GOVERNANCE



ENHANCED
LIVELIHOODS





Ecological Restoration

Ecological security is fundamental to the economic and social well-being of local communities. As a part of their critical ecological functions, forests, grasslands and 'wastelands' that fall within the periphery of villages, regulate water and nutrient flows, sequester carbon, contribute to pollination and pest control, serve as buffers to ecologically fragile areas and act as repositories of biodiversity. These shared community resources are the pillars of rural economies and are estimated to be worth USD 5 billion annually (in 2001).

As ecological security is fundamental to economic and social well-being, FES lays emphasis on –



MAINTAINING
HYDROLOGICAL AND
NUTRIENT CYCLES



CONSERVING
BIODIVERSITY THAT
EXISTS IN THE AREA



SHAPING
LOCAL LAND-USE
CHOICES

Interlinkages between Commons, agriculture and livestock production systems are viewed at a landscape level, thereby connecting the larger constituency of farmers and livestock keepers with the conservation of natural resources. With rural communities being the key decision makers, FES facilitates the translation of thought into action by promoting exchange between customary intuitive knowledge and modern technology.





Local Governance

The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution and the Forests Rights Act recognises the strengths of local self-governance in managing and governing common resources. Besides entrusting rural citizens with the power to determine their own future, the enactments enable local communities to act collectively. Such collective action is best placed to understand the local context, quick to respond and is cost-effective.

FES builds on the existing social fabric of rural life and traditional forms of local self-governance institutions, nests such local institutions within Panchayats to gain formal recognition and –



ASSISTS RURAL COMMUNITIES
IN SECURING THEIR LEGAL
RIGHTS THAT ALLOWS THEM
TO ACCESS AND MANAGE
THEIR COMMONS



ASSISTS RURAL COMMUNITIES
IN REVIVING RULES AND
REGULATIONS FOR THE
GOVERNANCE OF SHARED
NATURAL RESOURCES



BUILDS A CONDUCIVE
ENVIRONMENT WHERE
DISTRICT AND STATE LEVEL
MEASURES ARE TAPPED INTO
TO ADDRESS LOCAL NEEDS

As forests, pastures and water bodies transgress human settlements and require inter-village cooperation, FES works with contiguous villages and helps build institutional apparatus for debate and dialogue at a block or landscape level.





Enhanced Livelihoods

While the increasing threat to the ecological balance negatively impacts several million rural people across the country, it adversely affects yields and increases the cost of cultivation. These manifestations are merely immediate symptoms of a much deeper problem and are likely to have serious impact on the viability of farm economy in the decades to come.

FES emphasises on approaches that together translate into significant economic benefits, both at local and national levels. These are –



EFFECTIVE USE OF
PUBLIC FUNDS



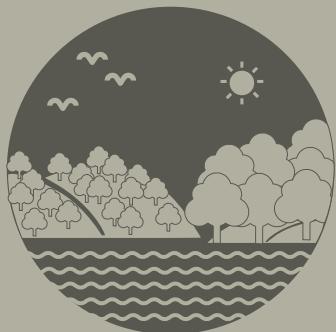
IMPROVED COLLECTIVE
ACTIONS THAT LEAD
TO COST-EFFECTIVE
MANAGEMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



IMPROVED LEADERSHIP AND
REDUCED CONFLICTS

Annually, India spends an estimated INR 40K-50K crore on various natural resource management programmes. FES considers this expenditure as critical financial investments for the restoration of ecosystems, collective action and to enhance rural livelihoods. Recognising the impact of natural infrastructure on the viability of farming systems and how they are intrinsically connected, FES promotes livelihoods which are ecologically sound, socially just and economically rewarding.

OUR APPROACH



FORESTS IN A
LANDSCAPE



FARM AND
FARMING SYSTEMS



WORKING WITH
PANCHAYATS





TENURE OVER
COMMON LANDS



RIGHT TO
EMPLOYMENT
AND RESOURCES

Advancing Socio-Ecological Thinking

Receding natural forests, rapid loss of biodiversity, acute water scarcity and failing soil health are some of the most critical problems facing the world today. As conventional developmental approaches emphasise on centralised management or individualisation of resources, Commons face widespread neglect and degradation. This extensive degradation has deeply impacted and dispossessed many rural lives across India.

In the wake of such developments, the enactment of the Forest Rights Act and the 2011 Supreme Court Judgment on the protection of Commons has provided the much needed judicial recognition to the significance of Commons.

In order to address the critical task of Commons restoration, FES promotes decentralisation of natural resource management by aiding informed, local-level collective action. It demonstrates the importance of conservation by focusing on Commons within the larger landscape. This in turn enhances local employment, livestock production, farm productivity and the overall returns that are within the ecological thresholds of the area. Most importantly, it centre-stages local communities as capable stewards to lead local action.

By working across varied ecological and cultural settings, FES contributes to the widespread recognition of Common Property Regimes as a promising option alongside centralised or individual property regimes. Instead of a nature or people-centric approach, FES reinforces socio-ecological thinking for better governance of resource systems and local stewardship.





Forests in a Landscape

Nature and people connect different elements or sub-systems for their survival and functioning. For this, understanding connections between systemic drivers like soil conditions and animal life, agriculture and livestock production systems and socio-economic and political spheres are necessary.

It is critical to view forests as a part of the larger physical, social and economic landscape rather than in isolation. This big picture, on one hand, helps in judicious planning of land-use with areas marked out for preservation, conservation and utilisation and on the other, highlights the positive contribution that forests make through key ecological functions such as improved transfer of nutrients, longer periods of water flows, retention of moisture, and better pollination and pest control.

In addition to critical ecological functions, forests extend resilience to farming systems, impact local livelihoods and influence crucial water supplies to our cities. Such positioning elevates forest conservation action to a level similar to that of building agricultural resilience and livestock production.

Adopting a landscape approach, FES works with forest-dependent communities to improve ecological functions and services, which are the backbone of agriculture and livestock-dependent communities. By connecting forest ecosystems with the larger land-use in a given area, FES helps build a larger farmer constituency for forest conservation, where the continuum of forests, agriculture and economic opportunities are appreciated together.

Forests provide **shelter** to rich biodiversity, **absorb** greenhouse gases and **revive** hydrological flow

They are **vital for enhancing and sustaining** rural economy

Forests should be viewed as a part of the larger **physical, social and economic landscape**

Landscape approach and community stewardship can improve forest conservation

Manohar Pawar





Alok Vishnoi



Farm and Farming Systems

Conventional farming techniques focus on increased agricultural productivity by intensifying farm processes such as monocropping, irrigation, use of fertilizers and pest control. Though they yield quick results, such techniques often have undesirable consequences on water levels, soil health and agro-biodiversity, creating an environment that is not conducive for sustaining a robust rural economy.

Rather than associating farming with crop production, FES recognises the value of the interconnections within the larger farming system, which includes natural resources beyond the farm. FES engages with local communities during the decision-making process to address subsistence requirements and influence choices that impact ecological thresholds over a period of time.

Efforts to build interlinkages between agriculture, livestock and pastures or forests find ready acceptance within these communities. Initiatives focussed on securing land tenure, recognition of local self-regulatory institutions and financial investments for restoration often result in

better management of forests and pastures by the communities. This in turn, triggers collective decision making on crop choices by considering groundwater as a common property, and nurturing pollinator and pest predator habitats for improving crop productivity.

Sensitization on and integration of the ‘systems thinking’ approach by government and research functionaries is essential to scale such measures. Further, sector-based programmes should be screened for any unintentional and adverse consequences in other domains.





Working with Panchayats

The Indian Constitution recognises the role of Panchayats and Gram Sabhas (in Scheduled Areas) for the governance of shared natural resources. The XIV Finance Commission's decision to allocate resources directly to Panchayats, the substantial funds that local communities can access under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the mandate to evolve Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP), together have provided impetus to the larger trend of decentralised governance as reflected in the 73rd amendment of the Constitution. Such provisions strengthen the democratic character of Gram Sabhas and Panchayats, the foundation of our governance architecture. It determines local development, improves planning and implementation, and enhances local stewardship, knowledge and skills.

In addition to the much-needed financial investments, measures aimed at improving collective action, leveraging the latent strength of local communities, reviving civic engagement, and bridging knowledge systems are needed at sub-Panchayat, Panchayat, and block level to build vibrant democracies.

FES assists rural communities to enhance collective action, democratise the functioning of local institutions and craft institutional spaces that safeguard the interests of the poor. It works towards strengthening local self-governance where rural communities are placed as active stewards of their region. It strengthens collaborative platforms where community institutions, government functionaries, academics and NGOs deliberate on issues pertaining to conservation and use of natural surroundings.

Resource allocation directly to Panchayats **strengthens self-governance** of shared natural resources

FES strengthens leadership and promotes **collaboration** between villages and Panchayats

Panchayats can take conservation action by integrating **social, economic and ecological** imperatives

Availability of location-specific data helps define **local priorities** and ensures **access to entitlements**

K Murali Krishna



Commons

constitute about
25%
of India's territory

Reclassifying
'wastelands' as
pastures, asserts
their **economic
value** and prevents
diversion for
alternate use

Common
lands are
**demarcated
and registered** in
Prohibitory Order Books
or Panchayat Asset
Register

Securing
tenure on
Commons provides
**communities
security** to make
long-term
investments



Tenure over Common Lands

Degradation of Commons can be attributed to weak or absent tenurial rights, erosion of local institutions, and an unsubstantiated but generic view that communities are ineffective managers of shared natural resources. Based on the rationale put forth in the Forest Rights Act (2006), similar enactments can be implemented to govern wastelands and pastures. This can facilitate restoration of about 200 million acres of collective land resources and also impact over 350 million rural livelihoods across the country, apart from contributing to national and global commitments of climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to support communities gain tenure rights, FES works with the available administrative arrangements and legal provisions, such as Grazing Land Development Committees, Sub-committees of Panchayats and the Gram Sabhas under the Forest Rights Act.

In areas where the Forest Rights Act is applicable, FES assists tribal communities to claim their rights on these areas as community forests. In areas where 'wastelands' are available, FES assists village communities get long-term lease on such lands and also claim for an increase in the area designated as pastures by presenting evidence on the increase in livestock population and availing the enabling provisions that exist.

FES also helps local communities map their common lands and register them in the Prohibitory Order Book or Panchayat Asset Register to prevent their diversion for other uses.





Right to Employment and Resources

Financial investments are crucial in addressing failing soil health, depleting groundwater levels and loss of biodiversity in the country. However, these financial investments need to be coupled with institutional investments. This includes long-term tenurial rights for communities and strong village-level institutions to build and sustain the community assets.

FES supports Panchayats to align Commons' restoration plans with the Right to Employment Act and assists in the establishment of democratic and transparent decision-making systems that enable local level institutions to implement Commons programmes effectively.

FES joins hands with various levels of government to conduct awareness campaigns on Commons restoration through public funds. In response to these campaigns, FES provides information and conducts capacity building programmes so that communities can self-organise themselves and avail these funds for ecological restoration.

Village communities are also equipped to use FES-developed IT solutions to improve the decision-making process, and prepare design and cost estimates.

Rural wage rate adjustment, which has been long overdue, and improvement in the rural poor's purchasing capacity are recent measures being worked on by the Right to Employment Act. With widespread natural resource degradation, this is key to addressing future challenges posed by food security and climate change.

Public investment (e.g. MGNREGA) on restoration of Commons is over **INR 300-400 billion** annually

Aligning **Right to Employment** with **Right to Resources** can address multiple challenges

FES promotes use of government schemes like MGNREGA for **restoration work** through village institutions

Local communities are **trained** on free tools like CLART for **soil and water conservation**

Shaik Shirin Taj



STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Aligning Practice, Science, Technology and Policy

The widespread degradation of natural resources, Commons in particular, and the associated distress in rural areas necessitate concerted action to highlight ecological priorities alongside social and economic well-being.

FES' strategic priority actions include:

- Enhance local community capacities to secure rights over shared natural resources, improve local governance and access public funds to restore local ecosystems.
- Engage with local communities, NGOs and their networks to create visible impact.
- Develop and harness the potential of data and information to support and inform evidence-based decision making and conservation at scale.
- Mainstream Commons through Government partnerships and integrate innovative approaches to improve their governance.
- Collaborate with practitioners, research bodies and think tanks to elevate Commons' profile through rigorous analysis and evidence-based value propositions.



Enhancing Capacities

Prakriti Karyashala or Rural College's cost-effective, large-scale and quality programmes enhance local capacities for the effective governance of shared natural resources. Set up by FES to strengthen local stewardship, the colleges apply experiential and experimental learning methods which are tailored to align with government programmes. The *Karyashala*'s design and modus operandi enable it to function as a core strategy for collaborating with partner agencies and strengthening field level community action in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Rajasthan. Besides the use of technology in training and delivery of learning material, and monitoring quality and impact, incorporating innovative local art has effectively rooted the messages in local idiom. Women, an integral part of the rural cadre being trained, are encouraged to take the lead in natural resource governance. Through campaigns, collaboration and community-centric capacity building, the *Prakriti Karyashalas* will further enhance FES' efforts of mobilising communities at scale for the restoration and management of their Commons.



Built capacities of over 5,000 village agricultural workers and *Krishi Mitras* through experimental games and crop water budgeting, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Odisha Livelihoods Mission. 60 Master Trainers, trained by *Karyashala*, enabled field functionality trainings.

Initiated training of 'Banjar Bhoomi evam Charaghah Vikas Samitis' across Ajmer, Chittorgarh and Pali districts in collaboration with Rajasthan's Pastureland and Wasteland Development Board. Initiative to be scaled across 10 districts by next year.

Provided training to 150 rural cadres on entry of common lands in the Gram Panchayat (GP) Asset Register to ensure tenure security and management rights of the habitation level institutions. Facilitated entry of more than 24,350 acres of gomala lands in the GP Asset Register across 336 villages in Karnataka.



Facilitated Community Forests Rights work with partner organisations in Odisha to enable claims submissions and developed training modules on the post claims process. 234 villages in Keonjhar and Kalahandi applied for community forest rights over more than 41,000 acres under the Forest Rights Act 2006.

Trained members from 35 partner NGOs on improved governance, tenure security and Commons restoration planning in Andhra Pradesh, impacting over 1,800 villages across 5 southern districts through the APDMP MoU.

Studies and Documentation

Through the studies undertaken to understand nature and interactions between natural and human systems, FES aims to improve appreciation of nature conservation and the role of community institutions in governance of natural resources. By building evidences from the ground and from the growing body of research across the globe, FES is working to elevate the profile of Commons as critical to address climate change, improve local democracies and access to economic opportunities. Designed to promote exchange between traditional and modern knowledge systems, these studies place FES' work in the larger socio-economic and ecological context. Through collaboration with reputed institutions, FES monitors and evaluates the ecological, institutional and economic changes across landscapes. This is achieved by utilising frameworks of Ecological Health Monitoring, International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI), Social Returns on Investment (SROI) and Natural Resource Accounting System (NRAS). Further, the studies focus on the development and application of methods and tools such as Community Based System Dynamics, Experimental Games and Crop Water Budgeting that promote collective action, influence behavioural changes and aid decision making for landscape-level conservation action. Regulatory and policy level developments are analysed to improve the effective use of funds, identify opportunities and harness synergies from complementary initiatives to inform policy design.





Monitoring and evaluation studies of 1,100 households in 55 villages indicate a 2.5 times increase in annual household income over a period of four years subsequent to the efforts of securing tenure, strengthening local governance, and leveraging MGNREGA investments for Commons restoration.

Conducted socio-ecological monitoring studies across 17,000 acres of common lands in 150 villages, which indicate 2.7 times higher standing biomass in community-managed lands vis-à-vis unmanaged common lands.

Evaluated multi-stakeholder processes, which indicate that enabling communities' capacities to document, monitor and comprehend data of key social, ecological and economic indicators helps in enriching discussions in Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and take more informed decisions for governance of their landscapes.

Improved soil moisture regime and availability of fodder and water supplemented with adoption of improved farming practices contributed to increase in the agricultural income from INR 8,692 per HH/annum to INR 19,533 per HH/annum and an increase in income from livestock from INR 5,616 per HH/annum to INR 18,126 per HH/annum over a period of four years.

Designed experimental games around forest, in collaboration with IFPRI and Arizona State University. Played across 60 villages in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, the game results underscore that resource use and management are inherently gendered and there is a need to design gender-sensitive policies and programmes that address the different needs, preferences and constraints of men and women.

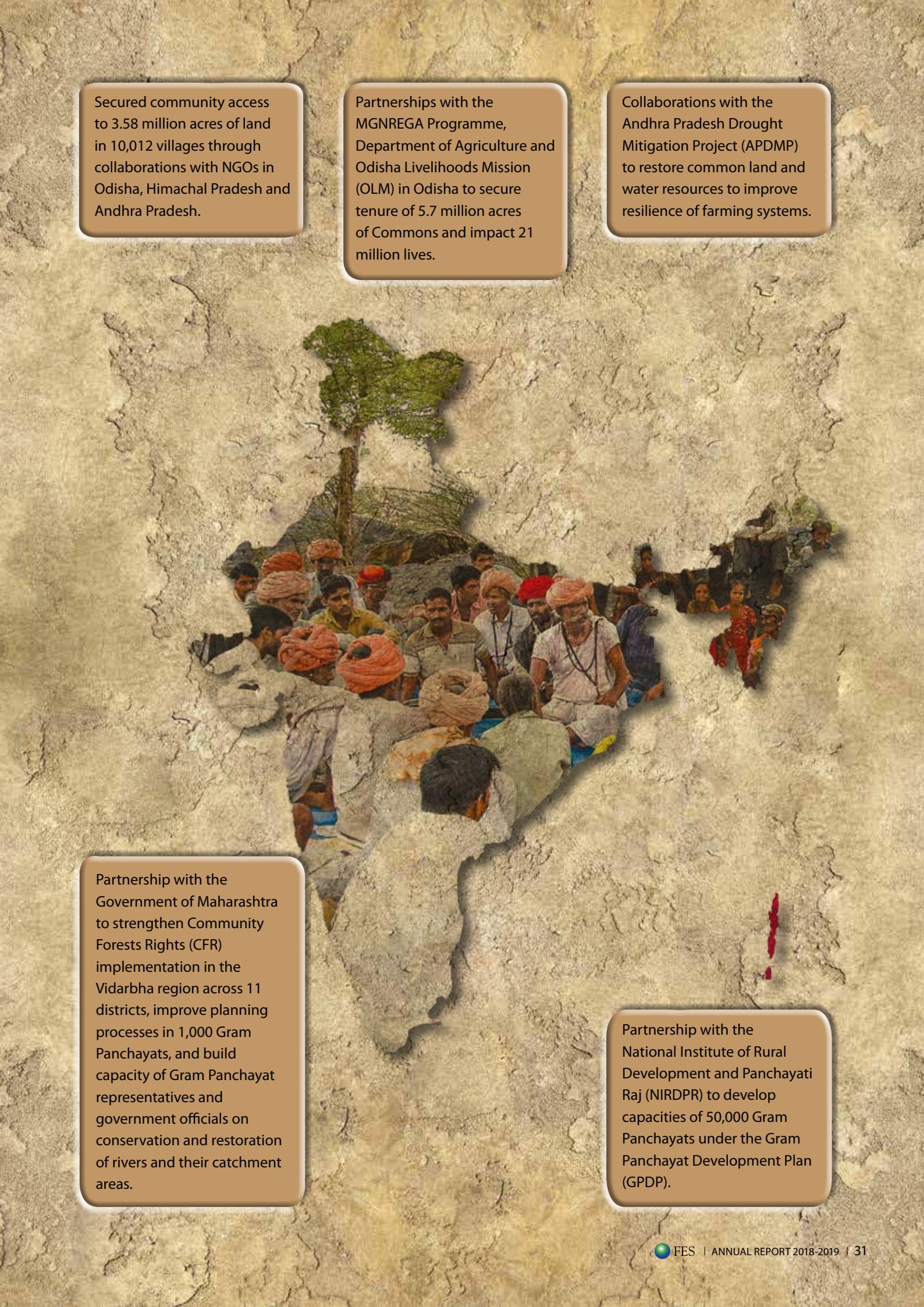
Collaborations

FES collaborates with like-minded practitioners, academic bodies and civic institutions, national and international organisations and relevant government departments to inform its conceptual design, enhance practice, and elevate the debate on nature conservation and Commons.

Such collaborations help elevate the role of forests as sources of water and collective action institutions for governance of shared resources. They also assist valuation of ecological functions and collective action and aid improved understanding of ecological thresholds.

Partnerships with Government and NGOs (and networks) assist on ground expansion and support implementation of policy actions. Work with relevant thematic groups help in advancing the thinking in neglected domains like pastoralists, small ruminant livestock keepers, community property rights and groundwater management. Collaborations with academic and research bodies are centered on conceptual issues such as socio-ecological thinking and polycentric governance, and on operationalising approaches such as system dynamics and experimental games. FES supports local communities and partners to harness the potential of data and information technology for improved planning, implementation and monitoring which will lead to informed action at scale and build good evidence. Value propositions built through FES' engagements can influence policy and programmatic action, improve visibility, and amplify the impact of different actors for widespread action. Highlighting its experiences, FES influences thought leadership at various consortiums, to promote nature conservation through a Commons paradigm and to centrestage Commons as a promising solution to address Climate Change and attain SDGs.





Secured community access to 3.58 million acres of land in 10,012 villages through collaborations with NGOs in Odisha, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Partnerships with the MGNREGA Programme, Department of Agriculture and Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) in Odisha to secure tenure of 5.7 million acres of Commons and impact 21 million lives.

Collaborations with the Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project (APDMP) to restore common land and water resources to improve resilience of farming systems.

Partnership with the Government of Maharashtra to strengthen Community Forest Rights (CFR) implementation in the Vidarbha region across 11 districts, improve planning processes in 1,000 Gram Panchayats, and build capacity of Gram Panchayat representatives and government officials on conservation and restoration of rivers and their catchment areas.

Partnership with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) to develop capacities of 50,000 Gram Panchayats under the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

India Observatory

The 'India Observatory' (IO) was set up as a response to the need for providing open access to information on social, economic and ecological conditions. Aligned to the 'Digital India' drive, it is aimed at developing demystified and context-specific analytical tools using spatial technology, which are supported on mobile devices. Anchored on a visualisation platform that allows easy navigation, the IO is a pan-India platform where data on 1,600+ parameters is spatially presented from the village to the national level. Its innovative data visualisation and analytics aid in the comparison of spatio-temporal changes. Equipping local communities and decision makers with these tools will enable judicious planning and use of natural resources and aid location-specific and community-driven development through efficient use of public funds. The 'Composite Landscape Assessment and Restoration Tool' (CLART), while assisting soil and water conservation, also supports judicious use of funds under MGNREGA. The 'GIS-Enabled Entitlement Tracking' (GEET) tool improves government's response to entitlement claims by residents in remote rural areas. The Indian Biodiversity Information System (IBIS), a web-based biodiversity database with rich, species-level information, serves as a conservation tool.



Data platform enriched with additional 1,053 layers for access to enhanced social, economic and environmental data. The new automated GPDP profile aids Panchayats in plan preparation.

Government officials and representatives of 66 NGOs across Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Odisha introduced to and trained on the usage of CLART for improved water conservation planning.

CLART utilised by 100 Panchayats in Chhattisgarh for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) on water interventions under MGNREGA.

Developed Common Land Mapping (CLM) tool to improve transparency and efficiency of mapping and utilised it to map 1,17,000 acres of common lands in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Integrated Forest Management Tool Kit (IFMT) deployed in collaboration with Telangana and Rajasthan's Forest department to develop working plans as per the National Working Plan Code 2014, for 9 forest divisions.

The Commons Collaborative

The power of people and their institutions, customary land-use synchronised with statutory property and nature's potential to provide economic opportunities are the basis on which FES' Commons Collaborative is built. It is aimed to advance, discern, debate and lead to dialogue(s) at different levels, and embed Commons in the larger goals of climate action and sustainable development. Through partnerships with the Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra state governments, FES has shaped and implemented flagship programmes. New opportunities in Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh are being explored. On-going collaborations have provided FES the opportunity to engage with various networks working in the space of nature conservation and add the Commons' vocabulary to their existing work. The gatherings FES has continued to convene, brings together a range of actors and promotes knowledge exchange between scientists, practitioners and village communities on human-natural systems, systems thinking and polycentric governance. FES' focus, through these strategic alliances, is to enable faster replication across varying geographies and emphasise the value of Commons to maintain ecological stability, improve economic opportunities and address complex sustainable development challenges.



Developed rigorous monitoring, evaluation, learning and impact assessment (MELIA) framework with World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Bioversity International and University of Colorado Boulder for the 'Promise of Commons' initiative.

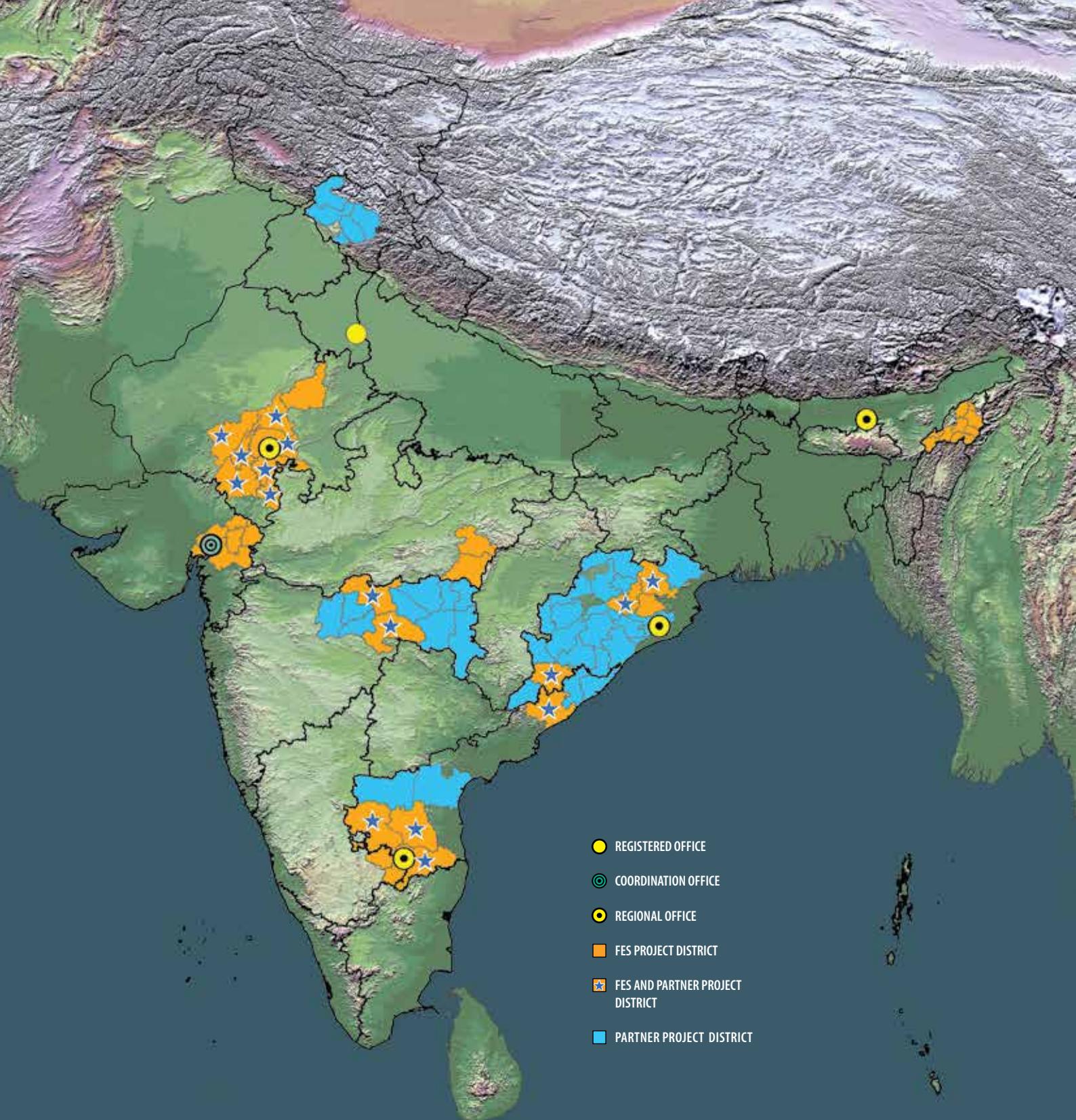
Engaged and trained IAS probationers of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) on 'How could 25% of India's landmass be managed better for better ecological, social and economic outcomes.'

World Commons Week celebrated to facilitate 'village to village' sharing of knowledge and information through more than 1,030 on-ground events held across 1,600+ villages from 21 districts across Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.



Shamlat Abhiyan (Commons Campaign) rolled out in Rajasthan with two newspaper advertisements, letters to all 9,894 Gram Panchayats and two rounds of SMSes to nearly 65,000 people, including the Sarpanch, the Panchayat Secretary and other community members. FES responded to more than 750 calls from across the 33 districts, with queries on Commons management, accessing funds from MGNREGA, etc.

Partnerships with Indian School of Business (ISB), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), IFPRI, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Collaborating for Resilience (CoRE), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen knowledge generation and exchange, improve outreach and strengthen policy engagement.



Geographic Coverage

ANDHRA PRADESH
ANANTAPURAMU
CHITTOOR
CUDDAPAH
KURNool
PRAKASAM
SRIKAKULAM
VISAKHAPATNAM
VIZIANAGARAM

GUJARAT

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KHEDA

MAHISAGAR

PANCHMAHAL

VADODARA

HIMACHAL PRADESH

BILASPUR

CHAMBA

KANGRA

KULU

MANDI

KARNATAKA

CHIKKABALLAPUR

KOLAR

AKOLA

AMRAVATI

BHANDARA

BULDHANA

CHEGARH

DHAR

GADCHIROLI

GONDIA

GOKARNANAGAR

GOWARI

GUNJALA

HARISHCHANDRA

JALGAON

JALNA

KALBAGH

KALYANI

KARJAT

KHED

KHIDIL

KHURAB

KHURGA

KHURGAON

OUR PRESENCE

Over the past decade, FES has achieved a **six-fold** increase in improving security of tenure of rural households over Commons in **73 districts across 9 states**. This has enriched over **10.98 million rural livelihoods** and strengthened stewardship of **6.27 million acres** of forest, pastures and wastelands across **20,155 villages** in India.

Our experience and evidence from diverse socio-economic-ecological conditions, have demonstrated that mixed interventions lead to improved ecological and socio-economic outcomes. This work, done at scale through robust partnerships, connects practice, research and policy discourse to replicate processes and lessons learnt across geographies. It highlights the value of Commons and nature conservation for improved rural economies.

The organisational strategies to accelerate on ground momentum:

- **Expand the scale and scope of engagement** with village and inter-village institutions directly and through partnerships.
- **Increase programme reach and impact** through campaigns and capacity building.
- **Build strong rural cadres** to support local communities in stewardship and accessing economic opportunities.
- **Replicate and evolve approaches** to manage Commons.
- **Equip stakeholders** with relevant programme management tools and **ensure judicious use** of natural resources.
- **Build evidence** on Commons' contribution to climate action (mitigation and adaptation) and in achieving the SDGs.
- **Identify challenges** in the action research, **introduce rigour** to the analysis, distil good practices/approaches and build evidence.
- **Incubate** innovations and utilisation of information technology.
- **Ensure access to and management** of property rights and systems behaviour consistent with local ecological thresholds.
- **Analyse and highlight economic value** of Commons and collective action.

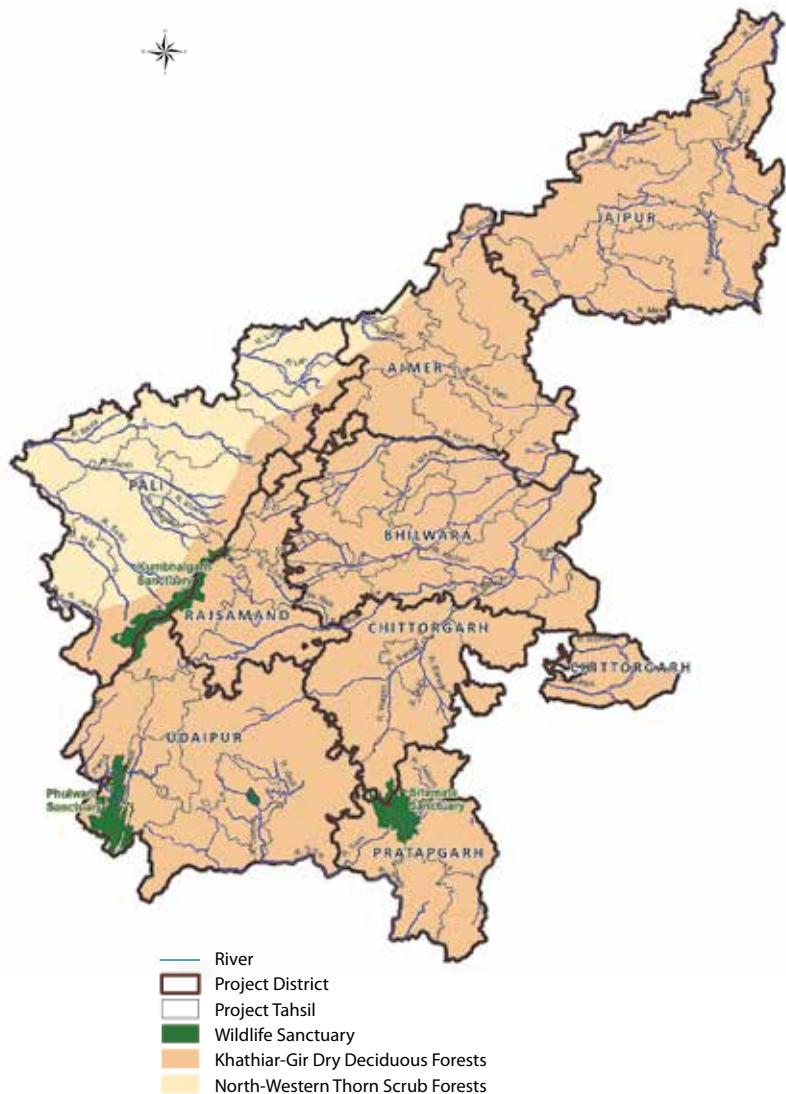
Rajasthan



In Rajasthan, FES engages directly with communities in seven districts. We work with agro-pastoral communities in the districts of Bhilwara, Ajmer, Jaipur and Pali, and with tribal communities in the districts of Udaipur, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh and Rajsamand. The central districts face recurrent drought conditions, while the southern districts are marked by severe deforestation, loss of biodiversity and increasing levels of poverty.

"When we sold *sitaphal* (custard apple) as individuals, we did not know who was getting how much. We formed a Self-Help Group, got trained on better harvesting methods and now collectively we are able to negotiate a better rate and make an average of INR 3,000 more per household."

RABI BAI,
Karech Village



Chetan R Dubey



884 THOUSAND ACRES of common land
brought under community management

2.9 MILLION LIVES impacted by
community institutions

3,780 HABITATIONS assisted in restoration
and management of their Commons

S S Singh



Dhamangatti, MAY 1998

Sunil Kumar



Dhamangatti, MAY 2019

Dhamangatti village has set an example for the neighbouring villages by successfully protecting and managing their common land over the years. Sustained efforts of the community have led to increased availability of fodder, fuelwood and improved water regime, thereby strengthening their livelihoods. The village has become a source of inspiration to neighbouring villages in accessing tenurial arrangements for their forest Commons.

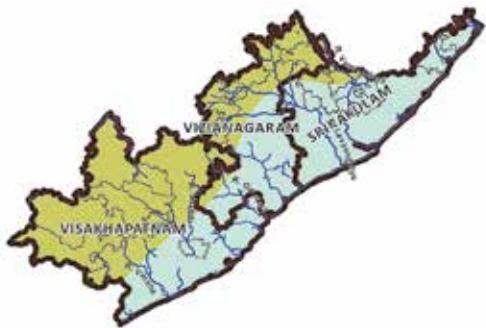
Andhra Pradesh

FES works directly with communities in two districts in Andhra Pradesh. Our presence in the rainfed catchment areas of River Papagni in Chittoor and Anantapuramu districts lies at the trijunction of the Deccan Plateau, Eastern and the Western Ghats.

Once known for its cascading irrigation tanks, this region is now prone to severe droughts and depleting water tables. Increased area under cultivation, prevalence of water-intensive crops, cultivation costs escalation and market price fluctuation lead to distress migration.

**"When there
is no other work
available, seed collection of
various tree species like neem,
soap nut and jujube, etc. provides
me with an income of
INR 7,500."**

B RAJAMMA,
Balijapalle Village



- River
- Project District
- Project Mandal
- Central Deccan Plateau Dry Deciduous Forests
- Deccan Thorn Scrub Forests
- East Deccan Dry-Evergreen Forests
- Goadavari-Krishna Mangroves
- Eastern Coastal Plain, Hot Subhumid to Semi-arid
- Eastern Plateau (Chhota Nagpur) and Eastern Ghats, Hot Subhumid

Shreerang K Hegde



968 THOUSAND ACRES of common land
brought under community management

2.2 MILLION LIVES impacted by
community institutions

2,844 HABITATIONS assisted in restoration
and management of their Commons

Suresh Jones



Gudlavaripalle, AUGUST 2002

C S Saneesh



Gudlavaripalle and Yeddulavarikota villages of Chittoor district have restored 300 acres of common land, overcoming challenges from within their villages as well as neighbouring villages, when the setting up of a stone quarry on the common land seemed to be a lucrative alternative. The area now supports rich avian diversity and a highly endangered plant species, *Dolichandrone crispia*.

Gudlavaripalle, NOVEMBER 2019

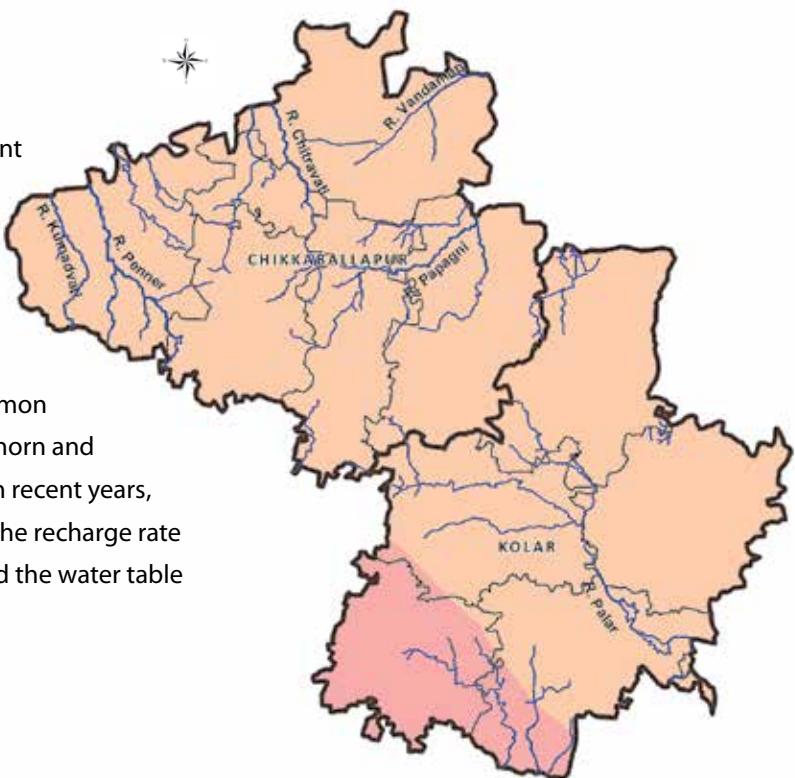
Karnataka

Our work in Karnataka is in the upper catchment of the Papagni river, covering three of its tributaries in the two districts of Kolar and Chikkaballapur.

The region is characterised by hilly terrain with rocky boulders and sparse vegetation. Degraded forest patches and common pastures are a mix of dry-deciduous, tropical thorn and scrub forests, infested with invasive *Lantana*. In recent years, unbridled groundwater extraction, at double the recharge rate to cultivate water-intensive crops, has depleted the water table to alarmingly low levels.

**"We
are experiencing the
change... Our protection and
management has led to more fodder
year-round for our livestock and water in
our tank for longer durations. After restoration
of Commons and tank de-siltation, we have
enough water for domestic use and
for our livestock."**

D.R. VENKATACHALAPATHY,
*Member, Devarajpalli Village
Development Committee*



- River
- Project District
- Project Tahsil
- Deccan Thorn Scrub Forests
- South Deccan Plateau Dry Deciduous Forests

C S Saneesh



173 THOUSAND ACRES of common land
brought under community management

633 THOUSAND LIVES impacted by
community institutions

1,079 HABITATIONS assisted in restoration
and management of their Commons

Dr Subba Rao



Sajjupalli, AUGUST 2004

C S Saneesh



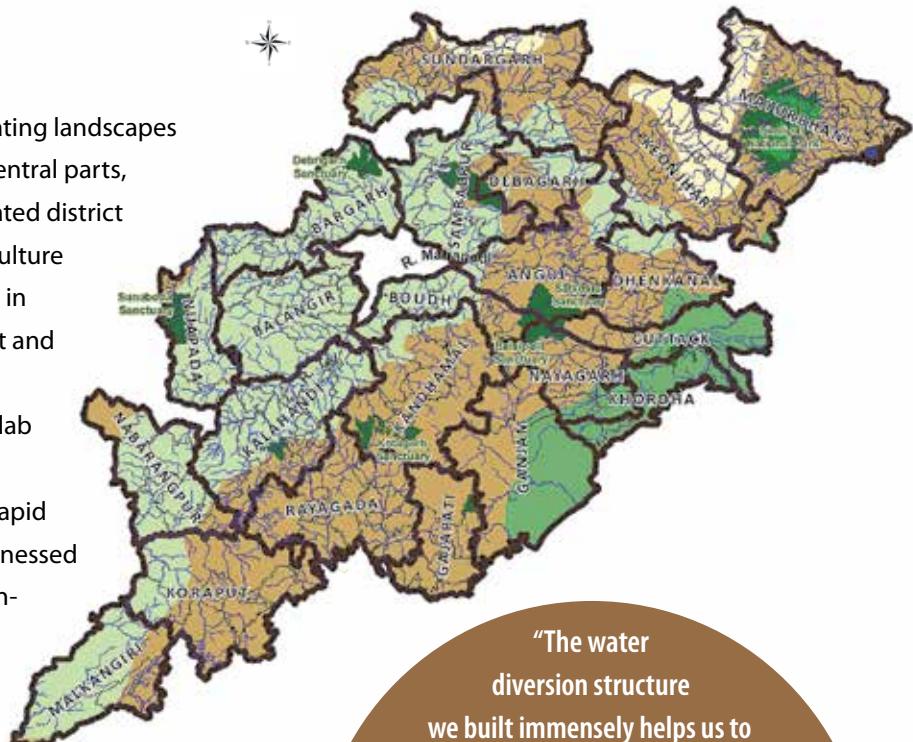
Sajjupalli, NOVEMBER 2019

Sajjupalli, along with three other adjoining villages, has been managing about 500 acres of common land in the Yerrakonda hill range for over a decade, through collectively evolved rules and regulations for provisioning and appropriating from the common resources. The area is now home to rich wildlife and also records the presence of threatened floral species and medicinal plants.

Odisha

Our presence in Odisha is in the undulating landscapes of Angul, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar in central parts, and in the Eastern Ghats' tribal-dominated district of Koraput. We work with rainfed-agriculture dependent small and marginal farmers in Angul and Dhenkanal. While in Koraput and Keonjhar, it is with tribal communities inhabiting the upper catchments of Kolab and Baitarni River basins respectively.

Although rich in green cover, with rapid industrialisation, both regions have witnessed acute water scarcity and growing urban-rural economic disparity over the decades.



"The water diversion structure we built immensely helps us to address the most critical issue of drinking water availability in the village. Women in the village, who had to travel 2 km to fetch low quality water, will now be able to get better quality water at their doorstep. This gives us confidence to work collectively and address other issues in the village."

KALAKAR DEHURY,
Anasuan Village

Dron Kumar Chandrakar



2.5 MILLION ACRES of common land
brought under community management

3.9 MILLION LIVES impacted by
community institutions

9,045 HABITATIONS assisted in restoration
and management of their Commons

Subrat Singh



Nabkishorepur, MAY 1998

Dawa Pemba Sherpa



Nabkishorepur, MAY 2019

Rules and regulations developed by the village institution of Nabkishorepur village, Angul district, for managing their forests and other Commons like water, have created a substantial resource base. The village now has a well-developed system for sharing forest and water resources, that takes into account both the availability and consumption of resources.

Madhya Pradesh

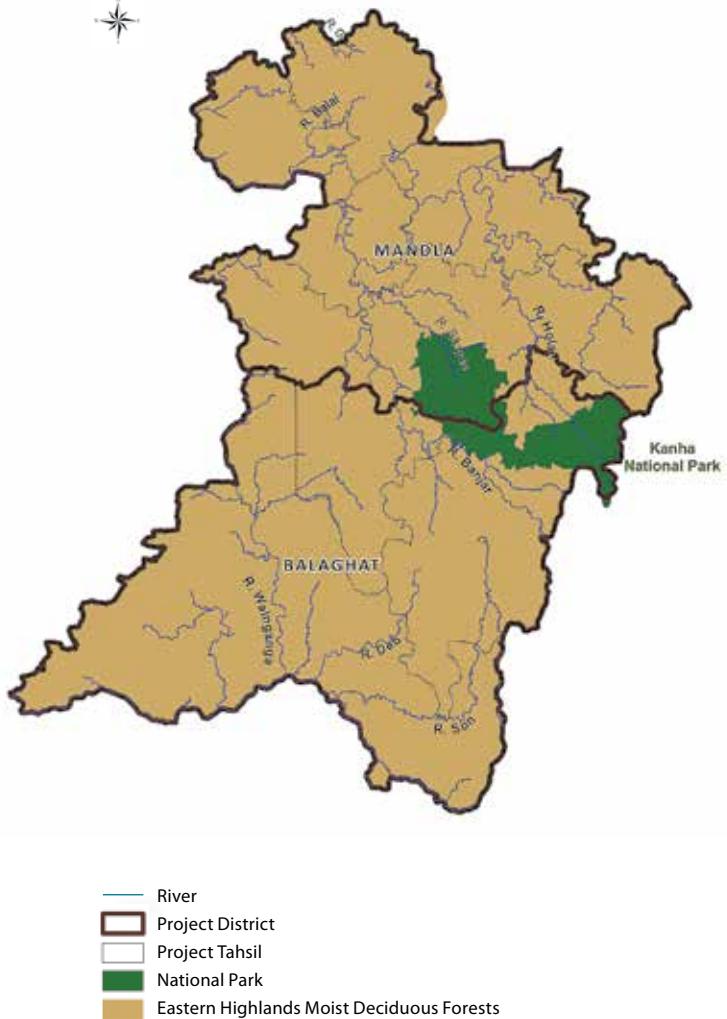
Our presence in Mandla and Balaghat districts of the Mahakaushal region in Madhya Pradesh includes the biodiversity-rich zone of Kanha National Park.

Mandla and parts of Balaghat district are home to tribal populations. The region is characterised by highly degraded forests, heavily infested with invasive species, low farmland productivity and distress migration of local communities.

"Forest department officials have appreciated our efforts of creating byelaws on closure, cut and carry practice, rotational grazing, and planting of local grass species. Our neighbouring villages have also adopted our example. Our forests are protected, and grass is available for our needs."

POHAP SINGH,
Eco Vikas Samiti President

Manohar Pawar



- River
- Project District
- Project Tahsil
- National Park
- Eastern Highlands Moist Deciduous Forests

114 THOUSAND ACRES of common land
brought under community management

149 THOUSAND LIVES impacted by
community institutions

424 HABITATIONS assisted in restoration
and management of their Commons

Kumar Rupam



Chak Pachora, JUNE 2003

Alok Vishnoi

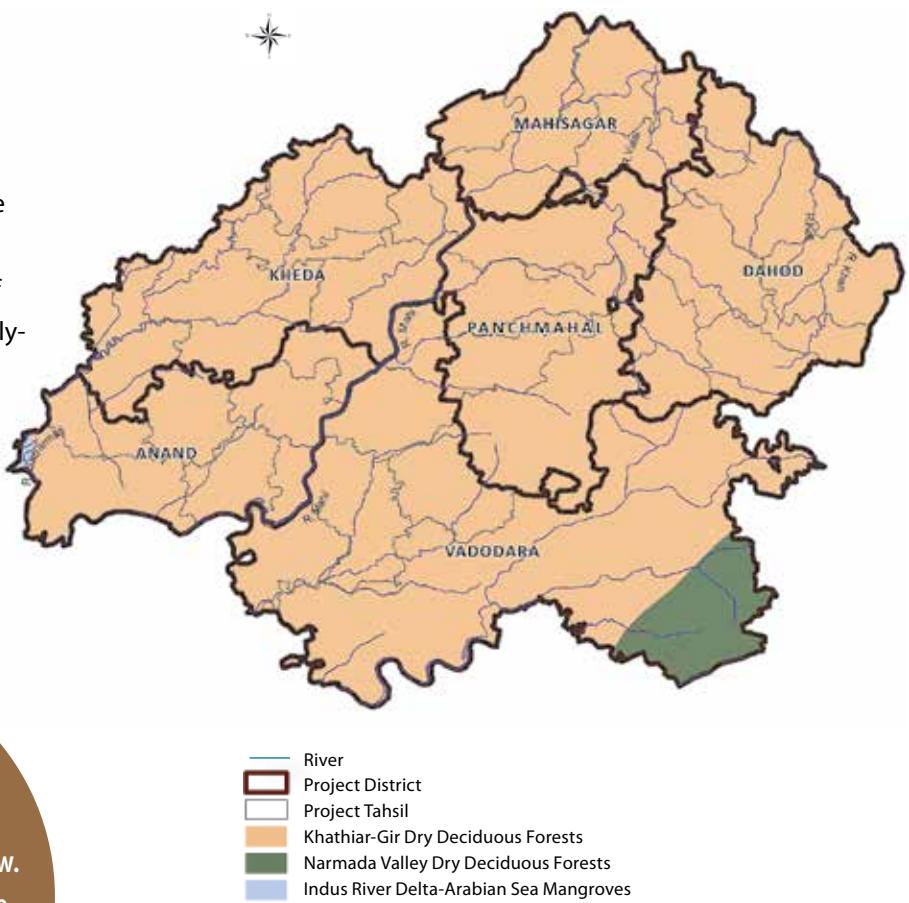


The community of Chak Pachora have been protecting and managing their village Commons for over 19 years. While the village could secure tenure of 77 acres, it protects and manages a total of 172 acres of common lands for better benefits to the community. The efforts have ensured better fuel and fodder availability for the community along with providing habitat for various local flora and fauna to flourish.

Chak Pachora, MAY 2019

Gujarat

Spread across six districts of central Gujarat, our work is characterised by a combination of issues ranging from the highly eroded ravines along the banks of river Mahi and the saline mudflats of the Gulf of Khambat to the ecologically-threatened wetlands of Anand and Kheda districts. Our work also covers the denuded highlands of Mahisagar district, which has a predominantly tribal population.



"Though quite late, I am happy that our rights to manage our forest and its produce are recognised by the Government now. I am happy because this year we have earned more revenue selling Timru leaf than what we get from farming."

SAMAJUBEN LAXMANBHAI
DAMOR,
Jogan Jetpur Village



74 THOUSAND ACRES of common land
brought under community management

539 THOUSAND LIVES impacted by
community institutions

873 HABITATIONS assisted in restoration and
management of their Commons

Jaswant Dhameliya



Khorwad, SEPTEMBER 2001

Dinkar Panchal



The mixed-caste society of Khorwad village, overcame initial hurdles to restore 100 acres of common land, which now has 72 floral species, an increase from the six species that existed prior. Recognising their efforts, the government has not only renewed the lease for another 15 years but also granted tenure in favour of the village for an additional 40 acres.

Khorwad, NOVEMBER 2019

North-Eastern Region

In the North-East, our work is spread across nine districts, populated by diverse ethnic groups. The region is characterised by unique climatic and topographic conditions and is home to the largest number of threatened endemic floral and faunal species in the country.

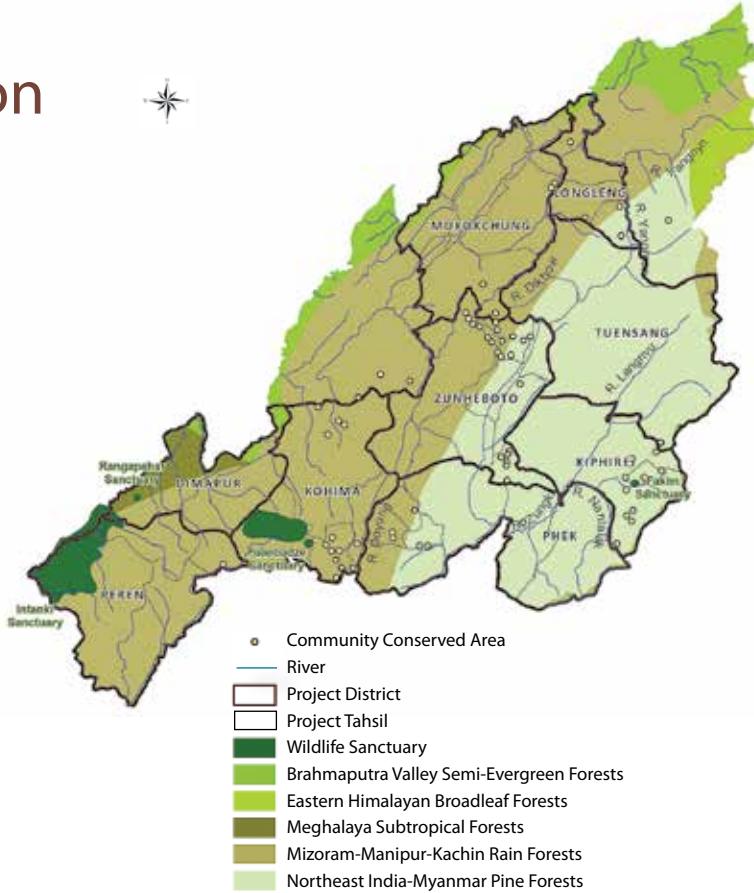
Even though hunting is completely banned within the boundary of the Community Conserved Areas (CCAs), and some species are protected even outside the CCAs, species like the Chinese Pangolin, Blyth's Tragopan, Great Indian Hornbill and Western Hoolock Gibbon are critically endangered.

"I have asked my son not to hunt the Chinese Pangolin anymore as these creatures are protected. He did not utter a word as he is considered to be the best hunter in the village. I hope he will follow the council rules."

MR. ADIBE,
Secretary of Village Development Board, New Peren Village

Yaranajit Deka

Our work with village and inter-village initiatives are aimed at conserving areas that are rich in biodiversity and are critical to the ecology of the region. Our efforts involve promoting collaborative platforms and providing them with context-specific information for designing effective conservation strategies for the region.



86 THOUSAND ACRES of common land brought under community management

133 THOUSAND LIVES impacted by community institutions

98 HABITATIONS assisted in restoration and management of their Commons



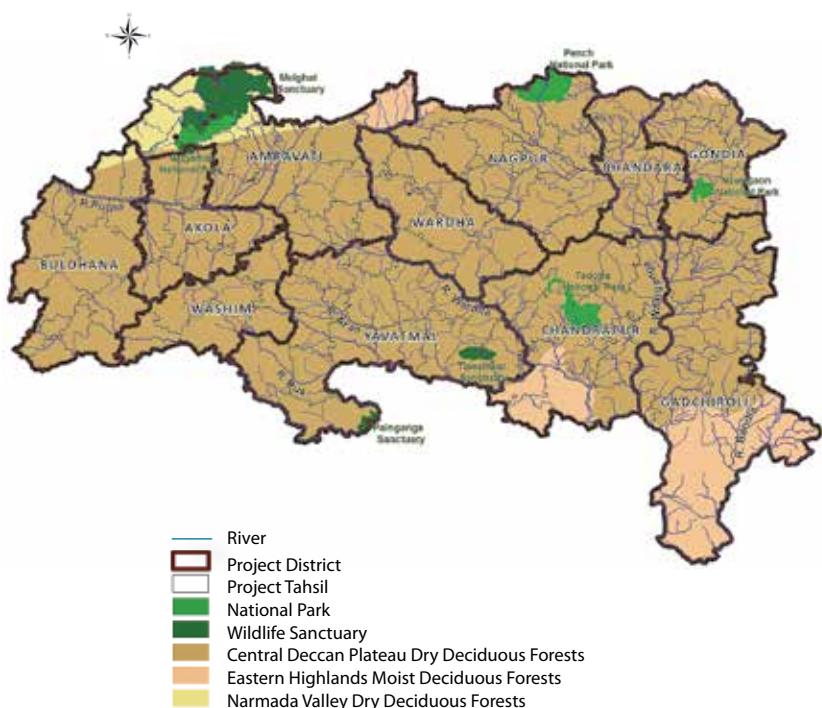
Maharashtra

In Maharashtra, we are present in the Ghatanji taluka of Yavatmal district and Chandur Railway taluka of Amravati district in the Vidarbha region, an area characterised by severe agrarian distress.

Over the years, compact Deccan basalts, which permit very little water recharge, together with high-risk cultivation of cash crops, rising agricultural input costs, and the absence of formal credit avenues have escalated the agrarian distress.

"Unlike previous years, once we repaired the damaged Cement Nala Bund, it has helped us get the water we need to irrigate our crops this year. In addition to this, it has also helped arrest water runoff from the drainage, therefore promoting local groundwater recharge."

LAXMAN GANPAT ANAKE,
Farmer, Jarur, Yavatmal

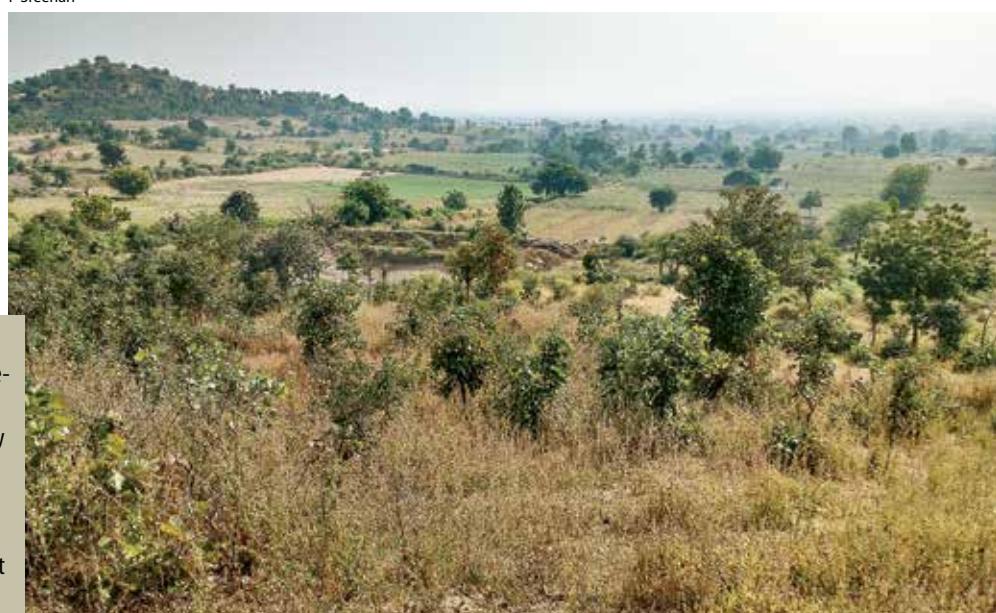


65 THOUSAND ACRES of common land brought under community management

159 THOUSAND LIVES impacted by community institutions

163 HABITATIONS assisted in restoration and management of their Commons

P Sreehari



Our work with local communities focuses on understanding resource-use patterns, connecting farm-forest-pasture interfaces necessary for a viable farming system, and promoting practices that lend resilience to local livelihoods and strengthen collective management of natural resources.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, New Delhi. FES is also registered under Section 12A & 80G of the Income Tax Act of 1961, and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) of 2010.

Sources of Funds

During the year 2018-19, the receipts totalled INR 526.99 million, as against the previous year's income of INR 536.48 million.

Of this, domestic sources accounted for INR 354.63 million (67%). The major share of domestic contributions came from -

- Philanthropic organisations - INR 256.02 million (48%)
- Government agencies - INR 72.22 million (14%)
- Interest on corpus and other receipts - INR 26.39million (5%)

The balance of INR 172.36 million (33%) is from foreign sources.

- Covered by FCRA
 - INR 13.66 million (2%) – Indian donors
 - INR 157.46 million (30%) – Foreign donors
- Not Covered by FCRA
 - INR 1.24 million (1%)

At the end of the year, the corpus fund was INR 249.98 million, and reserves and surplus amounted to INR 72.05 million.

Utilisation

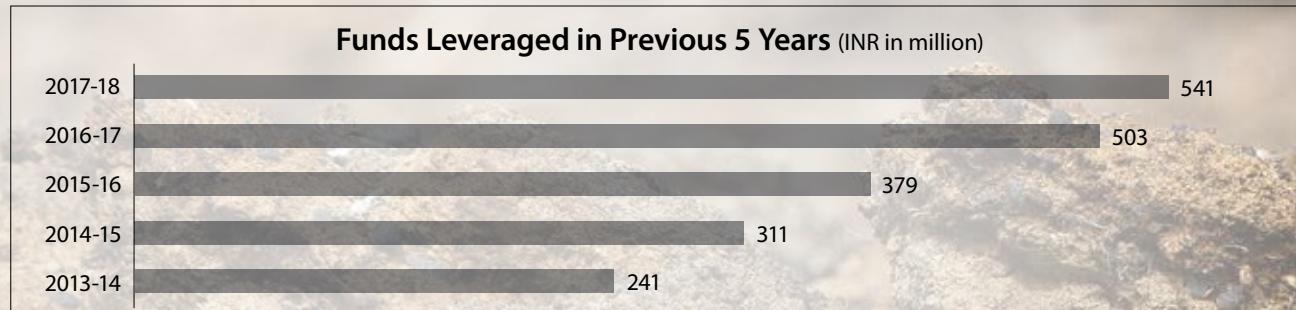
During the year, the total utilisation of funds was INR 496.42 million which is 94% of the total receipts, as against 97% (INR 519.51 million) utilisation of the previous year's receipts. The major heads of fund utilisation were:

Particulars	INR in million	Percentage
Strengthening Community-based Institutions for Conservation of Natural Resources	341.47	69
Informatics, Capacity Building, Studies, Commons Initiative, and Public Education	96.08	20
Administration and Recurring Expenses	51.87	10
Capital Expenditure	7.00	1
Total	496.42	100

Leverage of Funds

Besides utilising funds sourced from donors and government agencies, the organisation leveraged funds to the tune of INR 480.42 million from the following sources for implementing various project activities:

Funds Leveraged in 2018-19 from	INR in million
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	51.85
Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)	19.02
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)	261.38
Departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest, etc.	63.30
Community Contribution	84.87
Total	480.42



Sharp & Tannan Associates were the Statutory Auditors for the year 2018-19.

Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st March, 2019 are available at <http://fes.org.in/pdf/balance-sheet-2018-19.pdf>



Apit Deonuran

OUR TEAM

As on 31st March 2019

COORDINATION	FIELD TEAMS	ODISHA	Dileep Singh Solanki				
OFFICE, ANAND, GUJARAT	ANDHRA PRADESH	Mosin Bikanso Bajaru Muniraja M Nikhatparveen M Khatib P Vijay Kumar Raghavendra H G Ramesha N S G Gopi S Venugopal Sahana Srinath Sayyad Asia Sunil Kumar VV Y N Narashimappa	Anand Chandra Pati Ashok Satpathy Ashwini Pati Barna Baibhaba Panda Bijay Kumar Toppo Bikash Das Bulbuli Sahoo Dawa Pemba Sherpa Dhirendra Kumar Sahoo Dilip Kumar Khosla Dron Kumar Chandrakar Dushasana Mahanta Hrushikesh Mahapatra K Murali Krishna Kartik Chandra Prusty Laxmidhar Pradhan Mashkoor Alam Khan Mayadhar Mishra Meena Das Mohapatra Naresh C Pradhan Niranjan Sahoo Nirmalendu Jyotishi Pradeep K Maharan Pradip Kumar Mishra Prativa Mohapatra Raghuram Muthai Rakesh Singh Ranjan K D Samant Sonali Mohapatra Suryasingh Soren Swapnasri Sarangi Trinath Guntha				
Alkesh R Patel Amit S Sindhwala Anandkumar S Biswas Anil Sarsavan Anita Khristi Apoorva C Bishwas Ashok M Jani Bharatbhai M Patel Brajesh Kumar Dubey Brij Kishor Sharma Dallubhai L Vasawa Deb Jyoti Pal Dinesh Reddy Gagan Bhatia Hemant K Patel Himani Sharma Jagdeesh Rao Puppala Jayasree Sreenath Kalpesh P Bhoi Kunal S Shah Kunja Shrestha Liya Bensy Thomas Maheshkumar K Jadav Manish M Parsania Mayuri A Parekh Minity Skaria Mitesh M Tandel Mohita Ravi Bhatt Neeraj Tripathi Rahul Chaturvedi Rajaram Gupta Rajesh Kumar Mittal Rajesh Verma Rajiv J Nanavati Rama Ramnathan Ranjit Kumar Mohanty Robin Mathew Samir Uday Fanse Sanjay Joshie Sanjay P Parmar Satish Macwan Sham Vaman Davande Shivanyaa Rawat Subrata Kumar Singh Sudhakar C Sunilkumar J Parmar Sushant Agarwal Sushmita Patel Tenzin Chorran Vijayalakshmi A Kumar Vishalkumar K Barot Vishnubhai K Patel Yogeshkumar G Patel	GUJARAT Ameer Basha Shaik B Chengalva Prasad Bitra Sada Siva C S Saneesh Dhanasekaren V E Sahadevan G Sankar K P Sree Ramulu Kishan Antony Manisudha K N Daniel P Ubedulla Khan P Gangi Reddy Raksha Balakrishna Ramesh Babu Bethi Rani Reddy Mulinti S Sudheer Kumar S Vijaya Sekhar Sanoop V Shreerang K Hegde Snehesh K D Sreenivasulu Pulundala Subbireddy Gudla Umamaheshwara Rao V Ranga Swamy Venkat Raj Dyda	MADHYA PRADESH Abhisek Panda Akshay Ashruba Mane Alok Vishnoi Amar Singh Kusare Anoop Kumar Thakur Dheeresh K Namdeo Dhwani Sunil Lalai Ganesh P Singroure Ishan Agrawal Jaya Nikita Minz Kavita Suresh Keertan Baghel Manish Bhatt Mithun Bisen Mohammed Ayub Khan Padma Uttam Uike Pradyumna K Acharya Puneet Shukla Rahul Dev Mahato Rajesh Kumar Yadav Ramkumar Yadav Simanta Mazumdar Suhas K S Swapnil Ganvir Umesh Kartikey	RAJASTHAN Aashok Kumar P Dangar Baghabhai R Khant Chetana Nand Jha Devabhai K Gambhalya Dinkarbhui B Panchal Ishwar T Sargara Karansingh S Bhuria Manabhai K Damor Manishkumar L Pargi Pratapsingh Chaudhary Priteshbhai S Baria Sanjay Khandhar Shamji K Dama Sureshkumar S Mahavar Vikramsinh S Solanki Vinaykumar S Khant	MAHARASHTRA Dinesh B Hundekar Govind A Pednekar P Sreehari Santosh Nathu Pawar Satyajit Jena Vaishali S Sherekar Vishal Tulsiram Chavhan	ODISHA Binoy C Subin K S Tapas Das Yarana Jit Deka	NORTH-EAST Bishal Das Chetan R Dubey Deblina Mazumdar Devendra Kathat Dhanna Singh Rawat Dibyendu Mondal	Dileep Singh Solanki Dimpal Kumari Gajendra Kumar Kalal Gaurav Kumawat Girdhari Lal Verma Hariram Garasia Harnath Singh Khadiya Heera Lal Seenva Kailash Chandra Balai Kanha Ram Gujar Kesu Lal Meghwal Kuldeep Singh Khadia Kumar Rupam Lakhan Singh Chouhan Laxmanbhai N Cholaviya Mahesh Chandra Lohar Mahipalsinh B Sisodiya Mayur Vaishnav Mitthan Lal Sharma Mohd. Wassim Khan Narayan S Chundawat Narendra S Shaktawat Pankaj Pancholi Pankaj Singh Dangi Parmeshwar Lal Regar Prakash Sharma Pratiti Priyadarshini Prince Vaseem Rahul Porwal Rajendra Sharma Rajesh Ranjeet Tete Rajiv Ranjan Rakesh Kumar Khati Ramesh N Patel Ramjas Sharma Ranjeet Lal Rebari Roshan Rahul Dawale Shambhu Lal Verma Shantanu Sinha Roy Sohan Lal Sunil Kumar Suresh C Parashar Sushil Oraon Umesh Paliwal Vaibhav Trimukhe Varsha Jhnawar Veerendra S Deshwal Veerendra S Rathore Vinod Paliwal
KARNATAKA Avinash Chowdhary C Narayanaswamy C Sowbhagya Chandrasekhar Kannan D R Suresh G B Leelavathi M Uthanna							



OUR FUNDERS

A Axis Bank Foundation

Axis Bank Limited
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives

B Bajaj Auto Limited

Bengal Finance and Investment Private Limited
Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation
Bioversity International
Boston College

C Centre for microFinance (CmF)

Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CINI)
Columbia University

D Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

F Ford Foundation

G Grow-Trees.com

H HCL Foundation

Hindustan Unilever Foundation
HDFC Bank Ltd

I India Development Services

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
International Land Coalition
ITC Ltd. (Mission Sunehra Kal)
ITC Rural Development Trust
International Rice Research Institute

M Mulago Foundation

N NASSCOM Foundation

National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)

O Omidyar Network

P Programmes of various government departments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan

R Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project

RBS Foundation
RSF Social Finance

S SayTrees Environmental Trust

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust & Allied Trusts
Skoll Foundation

T The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The Duleep Mattha Nature Conservation Trust
The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI)
The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
The Regents of the University of Michigan
The University of IOWA
The Habitats Trust
The Green Indian States Trust
The Lucille Foundation
TMG Research gGmbH

U United Nations Development Programme

U.S. Forest Service - International Programs

W Washington University in St. Louis

Watershed development projects under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan

We are members of:



United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC) – Special Consultative Status



International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC)



International Union for Conservation of Nature



International Society for Ecological Economics



International Land Coalition (ILC)



Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium



International Forestry Resources and Institutions



Rainfed Livestock Network



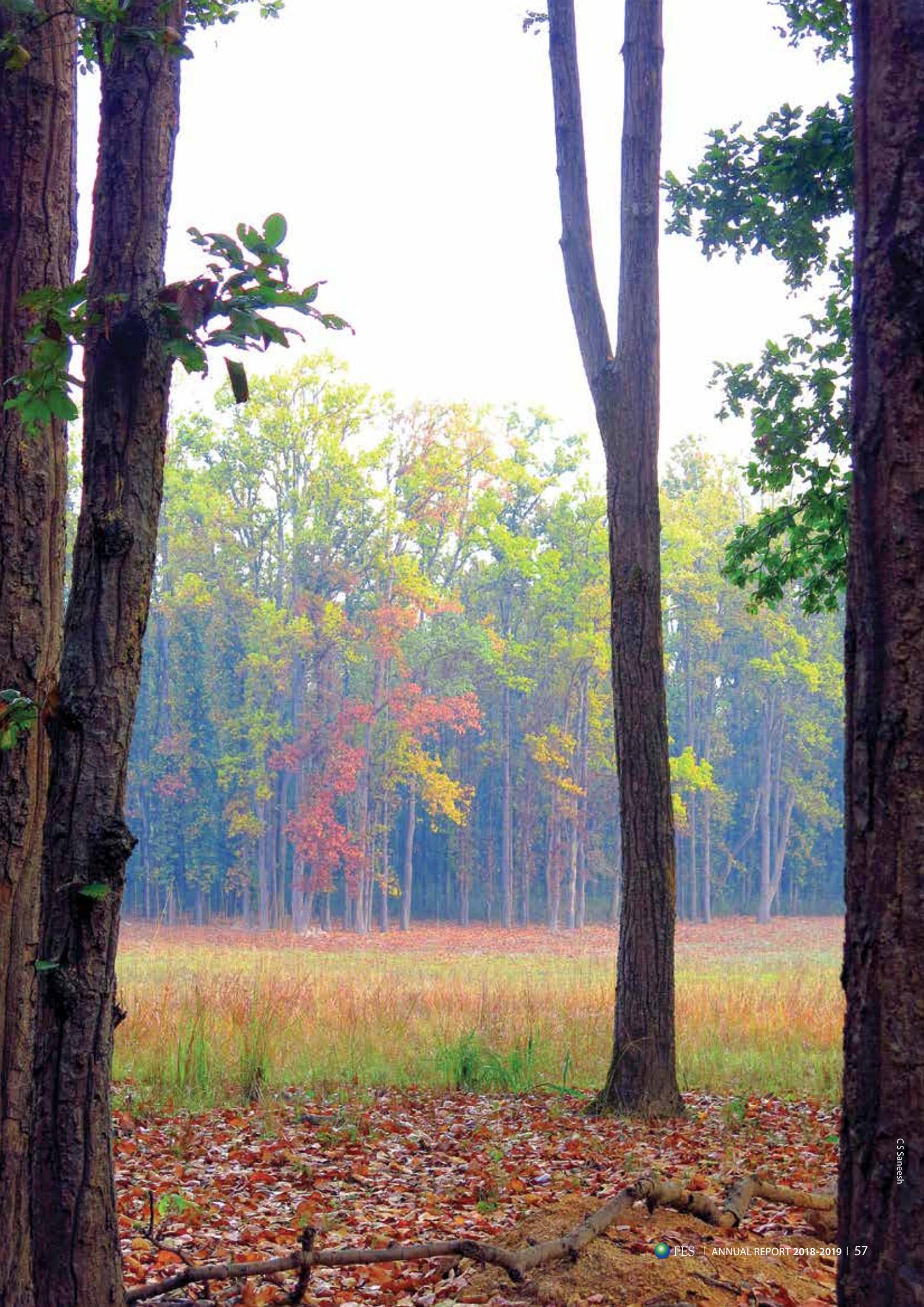
Indian Society for Ecological Economics

National Consortium on MGNREGA

Future of Conservation in India Network

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Commons can be used to refer to a broad set of resources, natural and cultural, that are shared by many people such as air, water and a habitable earth. These resources are held in common, not owned privately. They can also be understood as natural resources such as forest, pastures, wastelands and water bodies, that groups of people manage for collective benefit.

Common Property Regime refers to governance and management mechanisms for managing common pool resources such as pastures, forests and water bodies.

Ecological Security: Well-being of all life forms and encompassing ecological concerns required to ensure the security of the natural processes that human, plant and animal communities, depend on.

Forest Rights Act 2006: Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. An Act to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded.

Gram Panchayat refers to the executive committee of the Gram Sabha consisting of the representatives elected by the Sabha.

Gram Sabhas: Village assembly consisting of all adult (above 18 years of age) members of the Panchayat.

Prohibitory Order Book refers to an official document at Panchayat level which has records of land and other resources, which are used as Community resources and are prohibited from diversion for any other use.

Revenue Wasteland: Non-forested landscapes, often characterised by low tree cover and/or deemed unfit for cultivation (thus poor revenue-generating), classified as "wastelands" through colonial times and continue to be so even today.

Secure Tenure refers to the legal recognition of ownership over resources, especially common resources such as forest, pastures, wastelands and water bodies, in favour of rural communities.

Systems Thinking Approach refers to a holistic approach of understanding how things influence one another within a whole. In nature, systems thinking examples include ecosystems in which various elements such as air, water, movement, plants and animals work together to survive or perish.

73rd Amendment to the Constitution, passed in April 1993 provided a Constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in India.

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