

Curriculum Vitae

Siddhanta Das

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha
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Personal Details:

Father's name:	Rajendra Narayan Das
Date of Birth:	April 23, 1960
Gender:	Male
Nationality:	Indian
Languages:	English, Hindi, Odia

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Positions Held: (in chronological order starting from the most recent)

1. Director General of Forests and Special Secretary to Govt. of India Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (07/04/2017-)
2. PCCF (Wildlife)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha (19/02/2016-06/04/2017)
Brief job description: Overall Management, Conservation of Wildlife and Wildlife habitat in the State
3. Additional PCCF (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer)(01/12/2013 to 18/02/2016)
Brief job description: Processing of Forest Diversion Proposals
4. Managing Director, Odisha Forest Development Corporation Ltd (18/03/2013 to 30/11/2013)
Brief job description: Manage the business of Forest Produce in the State as the head of the State owned corporation
5. Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board (31/03/2009 to 23/03/2013)
Brief job description: Enforcement of the provisions of the provisions of the pollution control and environmental protection Acts and Rules. Create awareness amongst stakeholders, provide technical support to Govt. and its agencies, formulate guidelines and advise industries on these issues.
6. Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle, (01/08/2005 to 13/07/2009)
Brief job description: Overall supervision of the works taken up by the Divisional Forest Officers (DFO) in the circle. The Bhubaneswar Circle comprises of 9 divisions, 3 territorial divisions, 5 Wildlife divisions and 1 Working Plan division. (The DFOs are responsible for overall protection and sustainable management of Govt. Forests and Wildlife in their respective jurisdictions. While the territorial DFOs are more focussed on natural resource management, the Wildlife DFOs concentrate more on the management of the Wildlife. The Working Plan Officer is responsible for preparation of management plan of the forests.)
7. Project Director-cum-Coordinator, World Food Programme (WFP)-Project-10107, Bhubaneswar, Orissa (22/09/2004 to 07/07/2006)- (I was functioning both as PD, WFP and CF, Bhubaneswar Circle from July 2005 to June 2006)
(Brief job description: Government of Orissa in Forestry sector is implementing a project (Project-10107) with support of United Nations World Food Programme for the welfare of forest labourers, with a view to: (a) Providing food supplement to at subsidized rates and (b) Utilizing the funds generated by sale food commodities to the labourers for building community assets, strengthening social capital of those communities, and empowering women groups, etc. I am in overall charge of getting the project implemented.)
8. Executive Director, Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA), Bhubaneswar, Orissa (01/03/2000 to 22/09/2004)
(Brief job description: Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA) is the Government of Orissa Agency responsible for coordinating disaster recovery, rehabilitation, and preparedness initiatives in the state of Orissa, India.)
9. General Manager, Orissa Forest Development Corporation, Bhubaneswar, Orissa (01/05/1998 to 29/02/2000)
(Brief job description: Raising and maintaining commercial plantations and marketing of forest produce from such plantations)

10. Professor, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, Uttaranchal (19/04/1993 to 18/04/1998)
(Brief job description: Imparting professional training to the Indian Forest Service Officers, at the beginning of their service and capacity building trainings during different stages in the service.)
11. Deputy Conservator of Forest, Sambalpur Division, Orissa (24/06/1992 to 04/01/1993)
(Brief job description: Protection, management and regeneration of Govt. Forests, in Sambalpur forest division.)
12. Principal, Forest Rangers' College, Angul, Orissa (27/09/1989 to 17/06/1992)
(Brief job description: Imparting professional training to the Forest Range Officers on their entry in to service, and during their service career)
13. Deputy Conservator of Forest, Dhenkanal Division, Orissa (04/08/1986 to 20/09/1989)
(Brief job description: Protection, management and regeneration of Govt. Forests, in Dhenkanal division.)

Work Experience:

1. Disaster Management

Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA) came in to being after a devastating super cyclone in October 1999 in the State of Orissa. The main objective of its constitution was to facilitate shifting the focus of Disaster Management from “Relief, Restoration and Rehabilitation” to “Planning Preparedness and Prevention”. I was the first Executive Director of the newly created organization, first of its kind in the country, and was responsible for coordination of all activities carried out by the organization, which included:

- Disaster Management planning, policy making;
- Rehabilitation and Recovery;
- Capacity building of stakeholders in Disaster Management;
- Resource mobilization, Financial Management and HRD;
- Strengthening emergency communication facilities;
- Research and Documentation;
- Community level disaster preparedness in collaboration with UNDP, NGOs (International and National) and Community Based Organization. Particularly, I was responsible for implementation of Disaster Risk Management Programme, a Govt. of India initiative with the support of UNDP, in the State of Orissa. This project is also being implemented in several other states and Orissa is considered as a role model for them.

2. Planning and Policy making

- Prepared the State Disaster Management Policy, which was ultimately approved by the State Govt.
- Prepared the 1st draft of the National Cyclone Mitigation Plan, which has been approved by Govt. of India with minor modifications and alterations.
- Played a major role in preparation of State Disaster Management Plan.
- Formulated OSDMA’s Operating Manual and installed Institutional Systems and Procedures.

3. Project Management (Formulation, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation)

- As the Executive Director, OSDMA I was responsible for project planning, implementation, and monitoring relating to reconstruction and strengthening of civic infrastructure: educational institutions, communication facilities, irrigation facilities, flood management measures, drought proofing, water and sanitation, health care institutions, etc.
- As the Project Director-cum-Coordinator of World Food Programme (Project-10107) I am solely responsible for implementation of the project in its entirety, which includes Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation.
- In the WFP project I am responsible for formulation of integrated micro-plans for overall socio-economic development in selected villages and getting those implemented through partner agencies (Grass-root Non-Government Organizations or local Govt. machinery).

4. Food and Nutrition Security

- My main job as Project Director, WFP is to provide food and nutritional supplement to the forest workers in the State.
- As the Project Director, WFP, I am implementing a programme with the objectives to (a) eliminate incidence of moderate and severe malnutrition amongst children in the 0-3 age group, (b) prevent incidence of malnutrition among new-born children, (c) eliminate gender disparity in nutritional levels among children and (d) introduce a nutrition guarantee scheme for young children. This programme is underway in 6 project districts.
- As the Deputy Conservator of Forests in Dhenkanal and Sambalpur divisions implemented several labour intensive programmes of the Govt. which were primarily aimed at providing food security to the poor labourers.

5. Training and Capacity Building

- As Professor in the National Forest Academy, introduced innovative teaching methodologies with extensive use of audio visual aids, particularly the use of computer based simulation models for better understanding. As a trainer my specialisation was in Resource Management, Silvicultural Systems, Project Management and Computer and MIS Applications in Forestry.
- As Principal, Forest Ranger's College, Angul, ensured that the training curricula, in addition to the professional course on forest management, included proper appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of local communities as stakeholders in management.
- As Executive Director, OSDMA was involved in formulation and execution of capacity building training programmes for various stakeholders in Disaster Management, which included the community at the grass-root level, local NGOs, functionaries of the local self governments, Govt. officials at the cutting edge.

6. Strengthening of Social Capital

- As the Executive Director, OSDMA implemented "Social Capital Restoration Programme"; a component of the World Bank assisted Cyclone Restoration Project in the State of Orissa, through 30 NGOs.
- As the Project Director, WFP, I am taking up activities in selected villages for Strengthening of Social Capital.

7. Integrating contribution of Civil Society Organizations in Government programmes

- NGO coordination in Disaster Management activities, both for preparedness and rescue and relief operations was one of my prime responsibilities in OSDMA. My endeavour was to dovetail the initiatives taken by Civil Society with the Govt. programmes and Action Plan.
- Regularly conducted NGO coordination meetings in OSDMA to provide an interface between Govt. departments and the Civil Society.
- In the WFP I am getting several micro-projects implemented through NGOs. These micro-projects are aimed at overall development of selected villages.
- As the Deputy Conservator of Forests in Dhenkanal and Sambalpur divisions solicited involvement of the Civil Society in forest protection.

8. **Forest Management with community participation**
 - As Deputy Conservator of Forests in Dhenkanal and Sambalpur forest divisions, took initiative to solicit people's involvement in Forest Management.
 - Was involved in constitution of a large number of Forest Protection committees by the communities for joint management of Govt. forests.
9. **Material management**
 - As the Project Director, WFP one of my main responsibilities is Mobilization, transportation, storage and distribution of food grains (Rice and Pulses)
10. **Liaisoning**
 - As the Executive Director, OSDMA I was responsible for liaisoning and coordinating with Government Departments of the State and the Union, World Bank, UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, WFP), Bi-lateral agencies such as DFID, INGOs such as CARE, Oxfam, LWS, Caritas, CASA, Action Aid, EFFICOR, etc., national and local NGOs, Disaster Management Institutes, Research Organizations, experts, consultancy firms, etc.
11. **Wildlife Management**
 - As Chief Wildlife Warden and the administrative head of the Wildlife wing of the State I was responsible for overall management and conservation of Wildlife and their habitat in the State.
 - Due my initiative for promoting nature education amongst people a number of ecotourism complexes were developed in pristine areas. All these complexes are being managed by local communities. Thus not only, the nature tourists are able to appreciate the needs for conservation, but also, it is providing livelihood opportunities to the local communities and helping reduce man-animal conflict in the vicinity of Protected Areas.
 - People residing inside the Protected Areas normally occupy the fertile plain lands for agriculture and thus hardly leaving any meadow for grass and fodder. This inhibits the growth of the herbivores and in turn that of the carnivores and scavengers. I took up a special drive to relocate villagers outside the PAs with their consent.
12. **Forest Diversion**
 - For diversion of any Forest land for any non-forestry purpose prior permission of Govt. of India is required. On one hand any such diversion should be permitted only when it is completely unavoidable. On the other hand for overall development of the country sometimes diversion of forest land may become unavoidable. Therefore, it requires a lot of application of mind and due diligence. During my tenure as the Nodal Officer I put in place a system for proper evaluation of such proposals and speedy disposal of those.
13. **Pollution Control**
 - As Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board Orissa, I was responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the pollution control and environmental protection Acts and Rules, create awareness amongst stakeholders, provide technical support to Govt. and its agencies, formulate guidelines and advise industries on these issues.

Academic Qualifications:

Degree	Division	University
High School Certificate	First	BSE, Orissa
B.Sc. (Honours)	First	Utkal Univ.
M.Sc. (Physics)	A+ grade	Utkal Univ
M.Sc. (Forestry)	AIFC (Dip) ¹	I.F.C. ²
MBA		IGNOU ³

Computing Skills:

- Proficient in Word processing, Spreadsheet operations, Database management, Power Point Presentations, etc.

Languages:

- Possesses excellent oral and written communication skills in English, Hindi and Odia
- Can understand Bengali

Affiliations/Associations:

1. Member, Advisory Committee, Disaster Response Network (A national level Government-Corporate initiative)
2. Member of the Disaster Management Committee of Indian Red Cross, Orissa Branch.
3. Member Nature and Wildlife Society of Orissa.

Training Courses attended:Training Programmes Abroad:

- Attended a three month advanced Training course on “Tropical Agro-Forestry” in University of Edinburgh, UK during July 1991 to September 1991.
- Attended a three-month Training course on “Training of Trainers” in University of Edinburgh, UK during January 1996 to March 1996.

¹ Equivalent to M.Sc. Forestry

² Indian Forest College, (Now Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy)

³ Indira Gandhi National Open University

- On the invitation of Australia India Council made a study visit to Australia for 10 days (3rd June 2001 to 13th June 2001) to gain familiarity with Australian Emergency Management Planning and Response procedures and an appreciation of the range of emergency management training facilities in Australia.
- Attended a Training Programme in the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver from 14 June 2010 to 26 June 2010 as a part of Mid Career Training organised by MoEF, Govt. of India. This included environmental and forestry practices in Canada in general and in British Columbia in Particular.
- Went on a field visit to Brazil for 10 days to oversee the implementation of a World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Management Project in 2012
- Participated in WEFTEC Annual Exhibition & Conference 2012 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.
- Visited Nanjing Automation Institute of Water Conservancy and Hydrology, Ministry of Water Resources, China during 21-26 Feb 2013 to attend a seminar on “GPRS Network for Real Time Water Quality Data transmission from online Monitoring Stations in P.R. China” and for field visit to see the facilities.

Training Programmes within the Country:

- Attended a 4 week Training Programme coordinated by IIM, Bangalore which focussed on contemporary global and national Environmental and Forestry issues in June 2010.
- Attended a short training course on “Legal Issues in Forest Management” at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, India, 1999.
- Attended a short training course on “Project Management” at IIM, Calcutta, India, 1998.
- Attended a short training course on “Community Participation in Forest Management” at Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, India, 1994.
- Attended a short training course on “Computer Applications in Forestry” at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, India, 1993
- Attended a short training course on “Participatory Natural Resource Management” at Administrative Training Institute, Nainital, India, 1989
- Attended a short training course in “Financial Management” at Indian Institute of Financial Management and Research, Chennai, India , 1987

The above-mentioned information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Siddhanta Das