

Project Update: April 2014

Paribartan dedicated to protecting endangered species, preserving their habitats, and defending biodiversity. The Paribartan team fosters an entrepreneurial spirit in conservation and partners with community-based tribal women group, conservationists and forest administration to develop solutions for human-wildlife coexistence, especially to mitigate human-elephant conflict. The applicant is leading this project as team leader and successfully implementing the project in partnership with RSGF for mobilizing tribal community, forest administration and other stakeholders to chalk out long range strategic plan emphasising public, private, community partnership approach for conservation of elephants and their habitat "Telkoi Pallahara elephant corridor".

The project put emphasis on the following components:-

- ❖ *Telkoi – Pallahara elephant corridor and habitat protection.*
- ❖ *Capacity Building of tribal community to function as tracker.*
- ❖ *Changed in cropping pattern with non-lure crop variety.*
- ❖ *Sustainable management of forest, reserves, and water bodies through regeneration, conservation and judicious use and management practices.*

Village level sensitisation and advocacy meeting

A total of 234 meetings were organised. Trained trackers, farmers and the project team of Paribartan sensitised the villagers on sustainable and judicious use of common resources including forest and its produces, vegetative propagation of Telkoi- Pallahara elephant corridor, strengthening of community-based forest protection squad and measures to check grazing of domestic animal inside elephant corridor, erection of elephant proof trenches and how to check timber smuggling. This apart during village level meetings the women groups were encouraged to draw resource map of elephant corridor/sub-corridor and transfer related information to their fellow members, so that they can assessed the health of that corridor regularly and Community members will monitor the corridor. It is observed community-initiated action for protection, conservation and management of elephant corridor/sub corridors.



Capacity building of trackers

Paribartan the implementing partner organised refresher training programme for 30 community-based elephant trackers and provided input on application of indigenous knowledge on biodiversity conservation including management of elephant corridor and sub-

corridor protection of perennial water resources, regeneration of elephant friendly vegetation in and around the corridor and in fallow forest land and on community involvement in management of forest health including watch and ward. During training programme the Trackers were critically imparted with elephant roles to sustain our ecosystem and biodiversity and on forest protection and it is expected they will be the change agent for their community for conservation initiatives of the elephants.



Awareness cum Live demo promotion and diversification of cropping pattern like adopting non-lure crops

The purpose of this activity is to generate awareness and to change perception, behaviour and agricultural practices of the farmers residing in the vicinity of elephant corridor, transit path and habitat so there will be less

incidences of man elephant conflict. Tailor made inputs were provided to enhance the knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practices of farmers on adaptation of non-lure crop practices. Continuous hand holding support has been given to villagers with the trained farmers in field setting. Forty tribal farmers were trained and they are engaged in providing support to their fellow community members in this regard.

Construction of trench in and around forest areas of villages



Project team and the elephant trackers along with the community members surveyed the site and forest area for digging of elephant proof trench. It is expected the work will be started soon.

Field Visit by OPTIONS, UK TEAM

Paribartan was fortunate to receive a team of delegates consisting Allie Barter, Deputy Managing Director, Finance, Sherice Sorhaindo,

Financial Accountant, from Options, UK and Krishna Sharma, Head of Programme Options Nepal for appraisal of Self Help Group – Participatory Learning and Action Programme to be implemented in all eight blocks of Angul district Odisha.

On 2nd April 2014 the team arrived at the campus and the Options team was welcomed warmly by the team members and volunteers of Paribartan.





At 09.00 interaction was made and they critically reviewed approach and process of the programme and the financial management and adopted administrative procedure and monitoring. After listening about the RSGF, UK supported project “Strengthening tribal /forest dependant community action for conservation of elephant, management of habitat & Telkoi – Pallahara elephant corridor” the team shown their interest for a field visit of the project area.

1. Visited one village (Chandpank) in the project area.
2. Interacted with the tribal community and intended partners.
3. Interacted with the women’s group and saw the resource map.
4. Interacted with the project team and volunteers.
5. Discussion with intended partners on future perspective including sustainability issue beyond the project cycle.

Options UK was welcomed by the women groups as well as by the tribal community. Physically the team saw the condition of the tribal community and discussed regarding their livelihood option, gender equity, forest protection and conservation initiatives and human–elephant conflict issues. The women’s groups described regarding their initiatives on protection conservation and management of forest area and described about the progress of the project. This apart the women’s groups showed their records and other documents and told how they are participating in the project implementation and monitoring.



Women representatives demonstrated the *Rangoli* on village-based forest resource map and boldly spelt the available resources existing, explained regarding management plan, watch and ward, etc. The tribal women invited the team for a visit to their forest that they conserved but due to time constraint it was not possible. The Option Team UK shared her purpose of visit and personally interacted with the tribal women. Being impressed with the women group involvement in programme and maintenance of record Allie Barter, Deputy Managing Director, Finance encouraged the women group with a cash incentive of INR-1000 (£ 100)