

FOREST RESOURCES

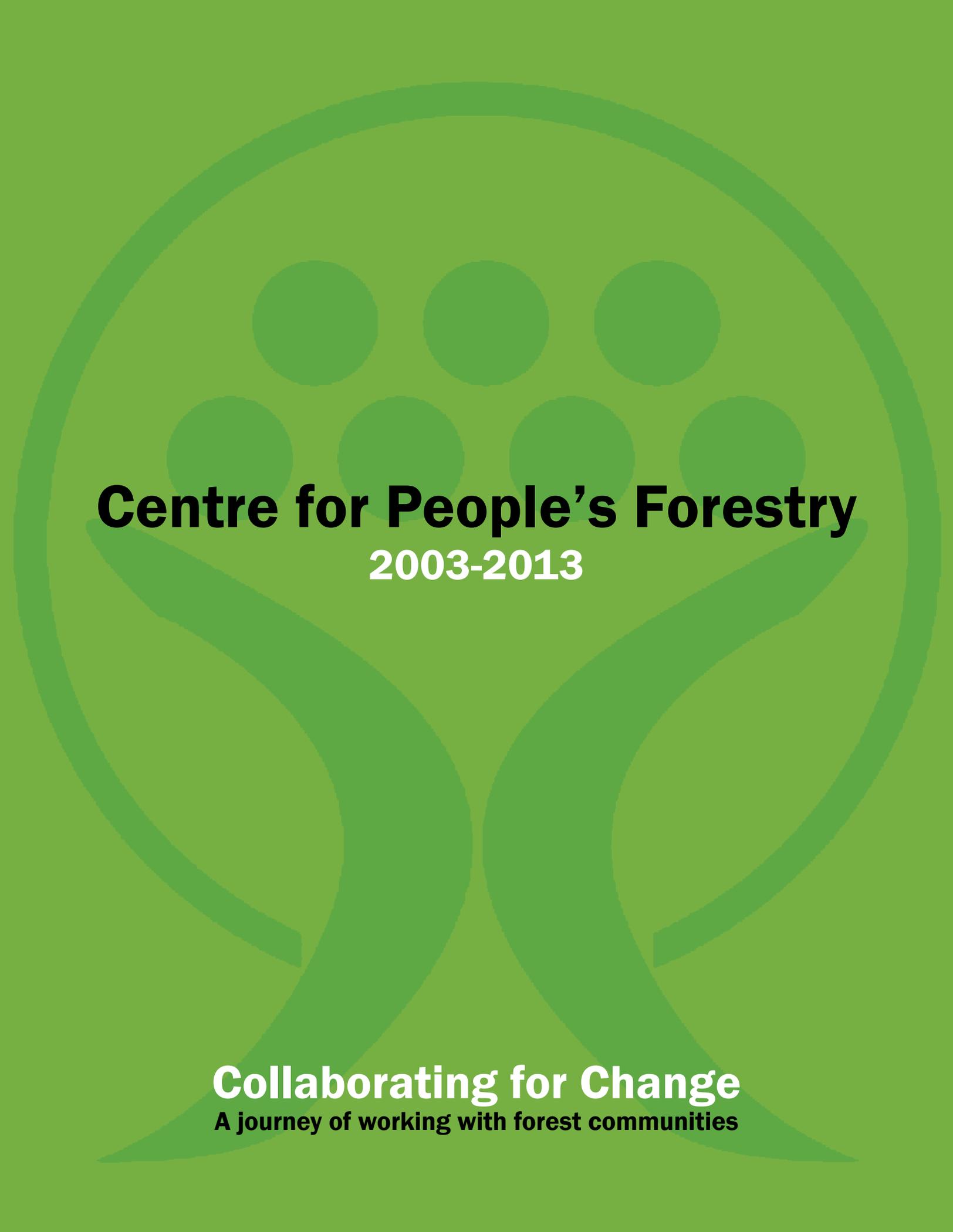


# Centre for People's Forestry

2003-2013

**Collaborating for Change**  
A journey of working with forest communities





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**Message from  
Mr. Ramesh Kalaghatgi, IFS**

**Additional PCCF  
Andhra Pradesh Forest Department**

It's a pleasure to note that CPF has been bringing out a report covering the programmatic and organisational development of the past 10 years. My first association with CPF dates back to the year 2001, when it was still a part of Centre for World Solidarity and since then it is continuing. The organisation contributed to the effective implementation of APCFM project through – organising stakeholder consultations, developing resource material, imparting trainer's trainings and providing feedback from the field on the implementation through reviews.

The organisation is instrumental in bringing in collaborations between the Forest Department and the Tribal welfare department (GCC) through the initiative of Adda leaf plate making in the past and between the Forest Department and the Rural Development Department for treatment of forest lands in the Integrated Watershed Management Programme in the recent time. Strengths of both GO and NGO could be effectively used for the benefit of the communities through such initiatives.

I wish them success in all their future endeavours.

**Date: 20.07.2013**

**Mr. Ramesh Kalaghatgi**



## Message from Dr. C. Suvarna, IFS

**Special Commissioner (Watershed)  
Department of Rural Development  
Government of Andhra Pradesh**

CPF has been known to me for the past several years and I congratulate them for the current report where the accomplishments over the past 10 years are presented impressively. I remember my association with CPF when I was in AP Forest Academy especially with respect to the work on developing methodology for the "Participatory Performance Assessment of VSSs" and "gender issues in forestry" to which I too contributed. CPF has good networking with likeminded grass root level organisations with whose assistance several training and capacity building activities were implemented under AP Community Forest Management Project. Our association is continuing even in the Rural Development Department where they have been collaborating with us on forest land treatment work in the IWMP watersheds of forest fringe areas and they are also acting as Project Implementing Agency for IWMP watersheds projects in Adilabad district.

CPF has a dedicated team of professionals who strive hard to realise the organisation's goals. They are good at action research, documentation and publications. It is one of the few organisations in the 'NGO sector, which publishes its annual Reports with financial statements every year and disseminate the information effectively. I congratulate Dr. Suryakumari, Director, CPF for grooming the organisation in an effective way and building a good image for the organization.

I wish the organisation succeeds in its endeavours in forestry sector in future!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suvarna', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Date: 17-07-2013**

**Dr. C. Suvarna**



**Honorary Convenor,  
Centre for World Solidarity (CWS)**

## **Compelling Performance**

It is with great pleasure and a shared sense of fulfilment, I commend this decennial report of the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF).

CPF has by now carved itself a niche in Indian civil society, entirely on the basis of its performance. It has done what it ought to have done, and continues to do what it ought to, in its journey with forest communities. Very few Indian civil society organisations, I daresay, have done so much for so many in a short period of 10 years.

Very often, civil society organisations fall short of developing a specific philosophy and framework to make the most of whatever opportunities come their way. This leads to the typical civil society organisation losing its way. When externalities throw up such opportunities, civil society organisations tend to build an order of self-esteem that is not in tune with the esteem that they command from the outside world. Such out of turn self-esteem often leads to civil society organisations taking stances that cannot be justified and, in any case, sustained.

CPF has very quickly internalised all that admirably. It is this which compelled the attention of other development actors to its work: fellow civil society organisations, governments at the state and central levels, and international development bodies. CPF never forgot its *raison d'être*, the forest communities, to whom it has endeared itself, as can be seen during its interface with forest community representatives annually, occasions to which I get invited, and at which I make a point to be present.

The goal of CPF to work for "empowering forest communities to manage and conserve their forests and in the process, gain livelihood security" is being progressively attained in its work areas, as can be seen from packed programme of CPF; in addition, CPF has worked where relevant to contribute to the enhancing of the health of the environment generally.

I have read this chronicle of 10 years of CPF's work with pleasure, and, I am sure, it will be read with equal pleasure by numerous others.

An organisation like CPF needs continuous renewal by understanding emerging situations and gearing up to address these. Its track record on that has been excellent. During the coming decade and beyond, challenges could be qualitatively different. I wish CPF every success as it moves onward to take up these.

**Date: 18.07.2013**

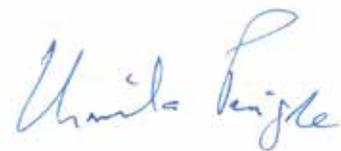
**Shri M.V. Sastri**

## Message from the Managing Trustee

I have had the privilege of being actively involved in the institutional development and implementation of the vision and goals of Centre for Peoples Forestry (CPF) for the greater part of its life first as a trustee and now a Managing trustee. This has given me the rare opportunity to view closely how CPF evolved and expanded its reach for holistic development and empowerment of the poorest of the poor forest dependent communities in Andhra Pradesh. Today CPF is one of the few NGOs that continues to work in the field of Community Forestry in Andhra Pradesh. Much credit for this is due to the dynamism and dedication of its Director, Dr. Suryakumari, who has built the organisation from its nascent stage and helped nurture and build a democratic fabric and non-hierarchical culture within the organisation. In other words she has made the institutional structure as flat as possible with genuine delegation of responsibilities/decisions to appropriate people under her leadership. There are not many NGOs who have achieved this degree of openness by firmly establishing transparent systems in financial and HR policies that have helped build a strong institutional scaffold that will truly weather the years to come.

The success and growth of any institution is directly dependent on how flexible it is to mould itself to encompass new issues and challenges that arise over the years. CPF owes its achievements to just such an institutional trajectory and adaptability. It has taken on board diverse stakeholders including different government line departments, NGOs, and CBOs to participate with direct involvement and implementation of programmes for conserving and managing of natural resources as well as facilitating human resource development. This involves great complexity at both the field and state level and a convergence and integration of different stakeholders and programmes. CPF has done just this by facilitating the implementation of community forest rights as well as in taking up pioneering initiatives in watershed conservation within forest areas. All these initiatives have helped to strengthen the capability of CBOs and empower them to take up the struggle for forest tenurial rights and for better management of these natural resources. The establishment of independent and strong Vanasamakhyas federations at both state and range level is one of the highlights of CPF's achievements. Presently, Vanasamakhya is the first CBO in India to get a direct financial grant from NABARD to take up a Tribal Development Project (TDF) in Andhra Pradesh.

I wish CPF, its Director, and staff all success in fulfilling their vision and mission in empowering the poorest of the poor. Because of the strong institutional foundation and transparency that has been nurtured in CPF over a decade, I am optimistic that the organisation will continue to grow from strength to strength in the future years to come.



**Dr. Urmila Pingle**  
**Managing Trustee**

**Date: 05.07.2013**

## Messages from Trustees

Being part of the Centre for People's Forestry has been personally satisfying for me for the simple reason that it practises transparency while working with partner NGOs and grassroots community organisations. Contributing in even a small way through my association with CPF in empowering the marginalised communities and particularly women, who have been deprived for centuries through historical injustice, is a personal social responsibility for me.

I congratulate Team CPF for the wonderful work it has been carrying out for last decade in Andhra Pradesh and of late in Odisha and Jharkhand. Thanks to the untiring leadership of its Director Dr. Suryakumari, and the commitment and hard work of all the professionals at CPF, that this new and emerging organisation has made a definite positive change in the lives of the forest dwelling people. That CPF has been able to attract enough funds from supporting agencies – both government and non-government, national and international – is in itself a remarkable achievement.

*I also congratulate Team CPF for bringing out the report card of its ten years of existence: Collaborating for Change: A journey of working with the forest communities.*

*I wish CPF, its partner NGOs, and all the people associated with CPF interventions great success in all future endeavors for the benefit of the forest communities.*

**- Dr. Manmohan Yadav**

While CPF is committed to its core value of biodiversity conservation and livelihood security of the forest dependent people, it has also taken in its agenda issues like climate change, forest, and carbon that will impact upon the forest as natural capital and livelihood security of millions of forest dependent people in the near future. The greatest achievement of CPF has been inculcating self confidence and dignity among the most vulnerable and marginalised groups of our society. The methods and approaches developed by CPF for forest resource governance and management and its action research findings have helped in carving a niche for the organisation in the field of participatory sustainable natural resource management. The staff members of CPF under the guidance and leadership of Dr Suryakumari has navigated the organisation to achieve such a remarkable position. With its untiring efforts and commitment CPF will certainly be able to contribute to the journey of millions of marginalised people towards a brighter tomorrow.

**- Ms. Raktima Mukhopadhyay**

May the success that has come the CPF way this decade, lead to bigger achievements in the years to come. I wish CPF all success in its initiative to reach and serve forest people of the entire Eastern Ghats. *Congratulations!*

**- Prof. K. Kameswara Rao**

Centre for People's Forestry has made a very meaningful, successful and a challenging journey over the past decade and I am delighted and privileged to be part of the decennial celebrations. I have seen and personally experienced its incredible growth over these 10 years. CPF is an exemplary organisation whose unique feature is that it has a strong foundation based on its ground work and policy advocacy work based on practical experience gained from the field. CPF is strategically positioned and has gained national and international recognition due its phenomenal achievements. It has also successfully demonstrated transparent and accountable governance.

I congratulate and admire Dr. Suryakumari for her valuable leadership and professional capabilities in guiding the entire team of CPF, establishing meaningful collaboration with the government and the key players in the sector, successfully taking forward the organisation ahead. I feel honoured to be associated with CPF in its mission and my best wishes to the entire family of CPF for the journey ahead!

**-Ms. Kalamani**

"Forest sector in India is going through tremendous changes due to increasing pressures on forests and international commitments. Many of the challenges require participation of forest dependent communities. Organisations such as CPF will have an important role in addressing emerging environmental and socio-economic challenges. CPF has excelled in the first decade of its existence and and I am sure the coming decades will be even more rewarding."

**- Prof. Ravindranath**

The past decade has seen CPF grow into an institution that is taken seriously for its commitment to forest issues and communities. A lot of hard work and dedication has gone into building 'Team CPF'. Wishing CPF more strength for its meaningful research and activism in the future decades."

**- Dr. Sheela Prasad**

It gives me a great pleasure to congratulate CPF on completion of 10 years of exemplary work.

CPF has strived to work in a transparent manner imbibing team spirit within its team and also with the stakeholders. Participation at all levels is central to CPF functioning. It's been my privilege to be associated with CPF.

**- Dr. Ramdas Rupavath**

To see an idea getting fructified into reality and then see it grow as an institution of national reputation cannot be described in words. Thus I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the mentor, to the executor and to the persons who are part of the journey called Centre for People's Forestry (CPF). I wish that CPF grows leaps and bounds in the coming years not for its own self but to serve and to achieve the purpose for which it was setup. Hope that CPF becomes a means to serving people with their skills, energy and good intent.

I commend Dr. Suryakumari, Director CPF specially and Dr. Urmila Pingle under whose able guidance CPF is flourishing but most importantly the mentoring of Shastri Garu in taking CPF to newer heights for greater good.

**- Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay**



**Mr. K. Jaya Raju,  
SAMYOGITA**

## Messages from Partner NGOs

I congratulate Dr. D. Suryakumari, the Board of Trustees, the CPF staff, and others who supported CPF's efforts for the last 10 years. I am proud to have been a partner with CPF since its inception.

The strength of CPF is all its stakeholders – the community (target group), community-based organisations (Vanasamakhyas), partner NGOs, CPF staff, Board of Trustees, donors, and Dr. Suryakumari. CPF played a pivotal role in lobbying to bring changes in many government policies. One of the major achievements of CPF is its publications, which are very useful in the field.

I am exceedingly grateful for its guidance and support through SAMYOGITA to the tribal people of Srikakulam district, and wish it completes it a hundred more years of success.



**Mr. Karanam Trinadha Rao,  
Executive Secretary, Gramabhyudaya**

I congratulate Dr. D. Suryakumari, Director, members and staff of CPF, others who contributed directly or indirectly to its success for the last decade.

I have been a partner with CPF since 2002. CPF started working in Andhra Pradesh and expanded to other states helping the local people tap good services from government departments by organising themselves, disseminating information on government policies and using them to protect the ecosystem for the survival of the forest and local forest dependent communities. CPF initiated State Vanasamakhya to work on forest related issues at grassroots and using its lessons learnt to transform policy. It made gender equity mandatory in committees, developed resource centres, gave capacity building courses, raised communities' knowledge and income levels, and produced excellent publications for field use.

I am grateful for CPF's guidance and support through Gramabhyudaya and its partners to tribal people of Visakhapatnam District. and wish it all success.



**Mr. D. Srinivasulu,  
Chief Functionary, Vanasamakhyia**

## **Message - Vanasamakhyia**

Our lives are connected with forests. Ever since independence, we have lived in the vicinity of forests without knowing much about the value of forests and forest resources. Since our association and interactions with CPF through voluntary organisations, we learnt scientific methods of NTFP collection, bargained for better prices for NTFP, approached officers in ITDA, forest and other departments, which involved us in forest development works, soil conservation works through which we got better wages. We also learnt the social boundaries of the forests under the purview of Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSSs), resulting in better management of our forests and reduced disputes between VSSs. Since our association with CPF, our livelihoods are gradually improving and infrastructure facilities in our villages have been improved. Due to strong advocacy by our leaders under the guidance of CPF, many tribal families got Forest Land Titles and more are to get them. On behalf of all the networks of Vanasamakhyia and local voluntary organisations, we extend our gratitude to CPF as lead organisation. Vanasamakhyia wish CPF as an organisation to spread across India and groom Vanasamakhyia to reach further heights.

## From the Director

The vision of an exclusive institute for forestry which works with a community perspective became a reality in 2002, when CPF started its functioning with a network programme aimed at institution and capacity building, and action research and policy advocacy towards achieving forest resource rights to the communities. Over the past 10 years, acting in response to the felt needs of the community, the organisation slowly entered into the areas of livelihoods, NRM and holistic development, CPF worked with the conviction that working in collaboration with others, especially the concerned government agencies, will be more productive in terms of securing benefits to the communities. However it never hesitated to act otherwise when the situations demanded it to be critical. The challenges faced during this journey include bringing together multiple stakeholders for consultations, building consensus on contentious issues and making the community federation (Vanasamakhyā) self reliant on the programme side, and heavy staff turnover, dwindling funding opportunities for the NGO sector in general and forestry work in particular, coupled with the fact that Andhra Pradesh is not a priority state for many of the resource agencies, on the organisation front.

Despite the odds, CPF continued to work for the forest communities with enthusiasm because of the support and encouragement it received from the Board of Trustees, the extraordinary government officials who could relate with the tribe of NGOs, and the very few resource agencies who see the point that the marginalised forest communities need external facilitation by NGOs like CPF for some time to come before they can independently access government schemes and programmes meant for them and articulate their concerns on the need for new policies, schemes and guidelines.

I wish to place on record the contribution made by Sri Sastriji who always stood by us as a pillar of support. Special mention needs to be made of Dr. Urmila Pingle, Managing Trustee, and Dr. Kameswara Rao, Trustee, who made themselves available all the time for discussion on organisational or programme matters and provided constructive suggestions and guidance. Dr. Sheela Prasad's (Trustee) contribution as a member of the Finance Committee is fondly remembered. The commitment and dedicated efforts put in by all our beloved trustees and colleagues throughout this journey are commendable. Every one of them contributed their expertise in a specific way to enrich the organisation's capacity. Community members and the local partner NGOs are always the motivating force with the bubbling energy and enormous enthusiasm they display, despite the disadvantages of working in difficult situations and inaccessible areas.

There is a long way to go before CPF realises its objectives. I feel that the organisation is now better equipped to meet the challenges in future. I wish and hope that it can garner fruitful collaborations from individuals and organisations in times to come and continue to deliver good services to the forest communities.

**Dr. D. Suryakumari**

# Acronyms

AEI	Aide a L'Enfance de L'Inde
APFD	Andhra Pradesh Forest Department
APARD	Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development
ASW	Aktionsgemeinschaft Soliderische Welt e.V.
BOT	Board of Trustees
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEG	Common Enterprise Group
CFM	Community Forest management
CFRe	Community Forest Resource Rights
CFRt	Community Forest Rights
CHELE	Chenchu Livelihood Enhancement
CHRD	Centre for Human Resource Development
CONARE	Conservation of Nature through Rural Awakening
CPF	Centre for People's Forestry
CWS	Centre for World Solidarity
DET	Departmental Extraction of Timber
DSIR	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
EDC	Eco-Development Committee
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst
FBR	Forest Bio-diversity Register
FDA	Forest Development Agency
FFS	Farmer's Field School
FGLG	Forest Governance Learning Group
FRA	Forest Rights Act
GCC	Girijan Cooperative Corporation
GO	Government Order
GOI	Government of India
HH	Household
HL	Head Loader

IGWDP	Indo-German Watershed Development Programme
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ITDA	Integrated Tribal Development Agency
IWMP	Integrated Watershed Management Programme
JFM	Joint Forest Management
JTT	Jamsetji Tata Trust
LVP	Local Volunteering Programme
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MOEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSTR	Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce
OTFD	Other Tribal Forest Dwellers
PIA	Project Implementing Agency
PLHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PTG	Primitive Tribal Group
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for the Asia Pacific Region
REDD/+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
ReFFE	Resource Centre for Folk Art Forms in Forestry Education
RRC	Regional Resource Centre
SMC	Soil and Moisture Conservation
SNRM	Sustainable Natural Resource Management
TDF	Tribal Development Fund
TOT	Training of Trainer
VMWDF	VSS Members' Welfare and Development fund
VSS	Vana Samrakshana Samithi
VWDC	Village Watershed Development Committee
WBA	Wood Based Artisan
WDF	Watershed Development Fund

# Executive Summary

**The Centre for People's Forestry (CPF)** has devoted the 10 years since its inception in 2002–03, and before that since 1996, as a part of the Centre for World Solidarity (CWS), in working towards its goal of empowering forest communities to manage and conserve their forests and in the process, gain livelihood security. Along with preserving forests, the watersheds and their ecology are also treated and improved, for the benefit of the larger farming community and the environment in general. The socio-economy of the intervention areas is improved as well, producing a healthier, increasingly self-reliant, confident, and vibrant society. The better practices and conditions of the past are revived and they can look forward to a more secure future.

The approach has been people-centric, and CPF's mission in the past 10 years has been building capacities, diversifying skills, and enhancing livelihood security. The intervention projects and programmes of CPF are geared to this end. As CPF's central philosophy is that the claim to conservation, control, and management of the forest resources belongs to the forest dwelling and dependent communities, its interventions have been to ensure that the people enjoy their rights, and are enabled by improved capacities to do so in a sustainable way that gives them livelihoods not only today, but in years and generations to come.

The core areas of action have been, for a start, to find out the ground conditions and figure out the critical areas for intervention through Participatory Action Research. This activity has been a crucial part of CPF activities helping evaluate ongoing programmes as well. The knowledge garnered has been key in putting in place interventions that are priority for the most essential changes and improvements to occur.

The next core area addressed was that of inalienable rights of the management of forest resources. Forest rights and tenure security were crucial for the forest communities. The Joint Forest Management, and later the Community Forest Management programmes were the initial steps towards ensuring this. The Forest Rights Act (2006) and Rules (2007) gave community rights to forest lands, and CPF helped them get individual and community titles to their rights. Whether it is lobbying and advocacy, or participatory research, planning and execution of projects, or the conservation and management of the forest tracts allotted to each VSS, or community-based programmes, the Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) are active and successful.

A core area of CPF's work has been capacity building and strengthening of CBO's such as VSSs, Vanasamkhyas (range and state level federations of VSSs) and other CBOs. This has been through a number of strategies, including institution building, a range of training programmes for a vast variety of relevant skills and knowledge-sharing. Since 2012 the Vanasamakhyas has been functioning independently and has been implementing a TDF project supported by NABARD. For NABARD, this is the first time that they are supporting a community federation directly for implementation of the project of such magnitude. (Budget- Rs. 214 lakhs for seven years)

Besides enabling communities to be aware of their rights and demand them, CPF has focussed on policy advocacy, to shape the state and central policies for the betterment of the forest communities and the forests. The results of Participatory Action Research and stakeholder consultations have helped advocate which has resulted in key government orders, changes in rules and policies, shaping of laws and rules, and more – all of which have benefitted the forest

communities. Advocacy through community has yielded results, and has given the members confidence to move forward.

Among the core areas addressed by CPF, participatory sustainable natural resource management and livelihoods has been the basis of its interventions. Action included micro-plans, forest diversity registers, and updates to track changes and trends, as well as resource management guidance for sustainable harvests. Treatment of forest land for effective watershed management, balancing livestock needs with responsible forestry, integrated farming, value-added forest produce – all meld into one whole harmonious system of managing and conserving both forests and livelihoods.

It was clear that climate change would impact forests and the communities living with forests. In order to be better equipped to handle vagaries of climate change and understand its impact, several initiatives have been undertaken by CPF. From assisting the research study on climate change with Liverpool University-U.K., IISC-Bangalore, IIT-Delhi, and Sevasangam to understanding the impact of climate change on water cycle, ecosystem, and livelihoods in eight villages it has also advocated for better conservation of forest. CPF also initiated work on estimating carbon stock taking and looking at sustainable mechanisms for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

The models created by this collaborative effort with the forest community can be replicated elsewhere. Among the beneficiaries of the interventions, the core one of VSS networking benefits 80,800 households in 13 districts in Andhra Pradesh. As one looks at the details of interventions and beneficiaries, they are found to be spread across the state, and include members

of every category – Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Castes (OBC), Other Castes (OC) – they are all participants. To pick up a few random examples: individual forest rights under the Forest Rights Act were received for 6799 in Andhra Pradesh and 1126 in Odisha; NTFP collection helped 495 families in 11 shandies of Khammam; bamboo harvesting benefitted 2935 households in Srikakulam and 1267 in Visakhapatnam; value-added NTFP such as *adda* leaf plate making helped 7780 tribal women; when CPF began helping the Chenchus with sustainable honey harvesting. The programme morphed into a holistic one that included health and education. Additionally, sustainable honey harvesting aided 1535 harvesters spread across Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and integrated farming benefitted 2978 households in the two states.

A collaboration of the many stakeholders has created a network of closely allied and functioning bodies – CPF works hand-in-hand with local NGOs, government departments, community organisations, funding agencies, and many others. The organic, non-hierarchical set-up of CPF extends to its working with all its partners, and it maintains transparency and accountability throughout. The annual partners' meeting serves as a platform for lobbying and advocacy between communities, local NGOs and the senior officials of concerned departments. From a small fledgling of eight members, born of a wing of CWS, today CPF is a mature, active organisation that strengthens and is strengthened by its collaboration with its many partners. It has made Andhra Pradesh an important actor in community and environment dialogues on a national level, shaping national policy on environment, forests, and people's forestry.

# Overview of the Organisation

## People at the centre

Andhra Pradesh has a wealth of unique forest-dwelling and forest-dependent communities whose rich heritage is endangered by their dwindling access to their traditional resources and a lack of other means of making enough to live by. The Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) has worked unflaggingly the past 10 years to enable these communities to conserve and manage their resources and help them gain livelihood security. To be at its best, CPF has worked hand-in-hand with local non-government organisations, international donors and institutions, the forest and tribal welfare departments, and other government agencies. For interventions to be sustainable, CPF makes it an essential part of its strategy to create a sense of ownership among local communities, and also engages with other stakeholders to achieve its vision: empowered forest communities with sustainable livelihoods.





## The rise of CPF

When the Forest Policy of India of 1988 and the subsequent JFM guidelines of 1990 by MOEF, mandated the involvement of forest dependent communities in the management of forest resources, several forest management and community forestry initiatives were started in most states including in Andhra Pradesh where CWS (and other organisations) actively contributed to the JFM process from 1996 . But these were still project-oriented and did not particularly attempt to build the capacities of the communities. At this point, in the year 2000, Sri. M. V. Sastri, Convenor of CWS thought of the concept of a dedicated organisation working for forest dwelling and dependent communities and Dr. D.Suryakumari, the Senior Executive of the Peoples Forestry (PF) wing of CWS, took the initiative in making it a reality. It was thought that such an organisation would help the forest communities attain their entitlements, and work to refine forest policies and make new ones, bringing them closer to livelihood security. The PF wing got to work immediately, consulting individuals, agencies, NGOs and GOs, and academic and research institutions, and finally the Centre for People's Forestry was born as a Public Trust on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2002.





## Guiding values

The vision that guides CPF is simple: a time when marginalised sections among forest dwelling and dependent people – women, Dalits, tribals, and the resource-poor – manage and utilise forest resources in a sustainable way while conserving biodiversity, and achieve livelihood security by diversifying their skills. To this end, CPF's mission is to promote their capacities, diversify skills, and enhance chances of livelihood security.

The core values that make CPF effective and dynamic are its transparency and accountability, along with its organic, non-hierarchical structure. This openness is achieved through open access to its programme and financial information for all stakeholders. Everyone is accountable, be it the director or staff, to the independent Board of Trustees (BOT) in their twice-yearly meetings. The Board sets the strategic direction to be taken by CPF, decides on its policies and systems related matters. The principle of equality and equity extends to gender relations and to striving to ensure that changes at community level are equitable. The democratic functioning of CPF, involving various stakeholders in meetings and taking on board of independent views on contentious issues makes for a lively and equitable entity safe from stultification.

All CPF projects and activities take a collaborative approach, with the result that other stakeholders buy into the initiative whole-heartedly, and in the process boost their learning curves as well! Transparency and easy communication are the order of the day in all work. The organic and non hierarchical nature of CPF encourages team spirit and participation of all staff members. Over time, it has developed well-defined systems for managing human resources, finance, and operations. It partners grassroots NGOs, CBOs including Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSSs), and their federations.

## Ten years of action

When CPF was established in 2002, two projects were already running in partnership with local NGOs in 12 districts. They covered 680 VSSs in 32 forest ranges. Their focus was on capacity building, networking and advocacy, and engaged mainly with the forest



department for the implementation of JFM and the associated resource rights to forests allotted to the VSSs for the communities.

In 2002–03 CPF began its work by first informing itself of the situation on the ground. The pertinent questions to which answers were sought include what were the needs of the collectors of non-timber forest produce (NTFP)? And what is the role of the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC), which has a monopoly on NTFP procurement in the state? A participatory action research study was carried out, involving NTFP collectors and partner NGOs. Its findings were shared and discussed in state and regional level meetings with various stakeholders. One result was continued engagement with GCC to address the problems of NTFP collectors but CPF took its concerns beyond just VSSs and their allotted forests.

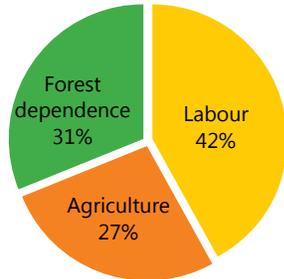
The following year, 2004, was devoted to an assessment of the state of livelihoods of communities with which CPF was working. Data from 80,800 households in 680 VSSs across the three regions of Andhra Pradesh was collected and analysed to gauge the communities' dependence on forests and other sources of income. The findings, presented in the pie diagrams below, showed heavy dependence on labour and NTFP among all communities, and then agriculture. Based on this study, working closely with communities and VSSs and Vanasamakhyas, from 2005 onwards CPF began livelihood interventions based mainly on forest produce – fodder, *adda* leaf, honey, bamboo, and *beedi* leaf, as well as plantation harvest. It also facilitated the creation and operation of a VSS members' welfare and development fund (VMWDF) in 2010.

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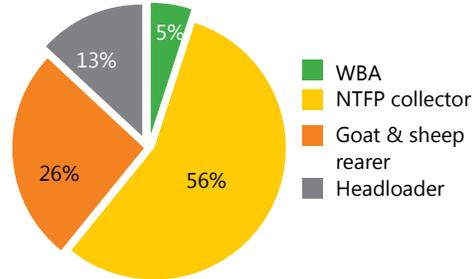
<sup>1</sup> Vanasamakhyas is the state-level federation of range-level networks of VSSs promoted by CPF and has been registered under the Societies Act in the year 2003. Over time, CPF built the capacities of the Samakhyas at different levels and groomed them to take up the lobbying role erstwhile performed by CPF for them. Vanasamakhyas has been functioning independently since 2012 taking guidance from CPF when needed. Vanasamakhyas, currently (since 2012) has been implementing a TDF project supported by NABARD. For NABARD, this is the first time that they have been supporting a community federation directly for implementation of the project of such magnitude (for seven years with a budget outlay of Rs. 214 lakhs).

The Nagarjunasagar Srisaigram Tiger Reserve, a protected area, came under the lens in 2006, to support the Chenchu communities living there, in particular the honey harvesters. Close association with the Chenchus led to working for their holistic development, a trend that extended to other forest communities with whom CPF works. A common thread in all associations is the leveraging of MGNREGS funds for the creation of community assets based on natural resources.

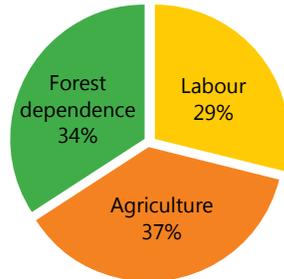
**Patterns of Forest Dependence & Livelihoods of VSS members (680 VSS) from CPF Project Area**



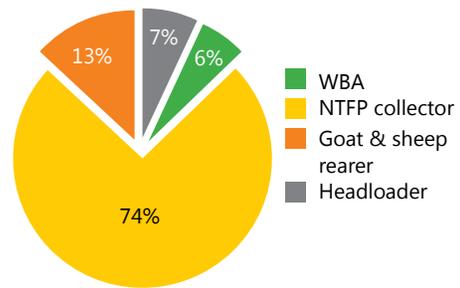
**Categories in Forest Dependence of VSS members (680 VSS) from CPF Project Area**



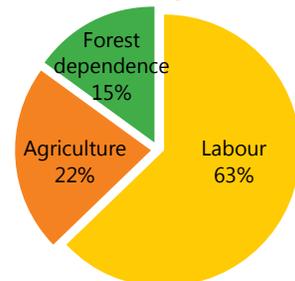
**Livelihood Pattern among VSS Members - Telangana**



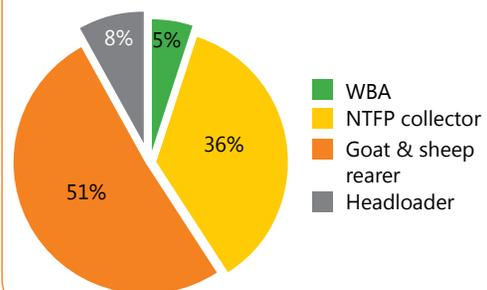
**Categories in Forest Dependence**



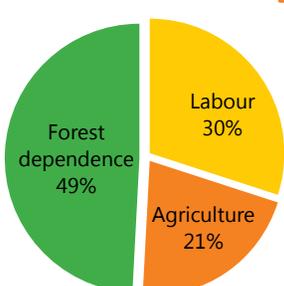
**Livelihood Pattern Among VSS Members - Rayalseema**



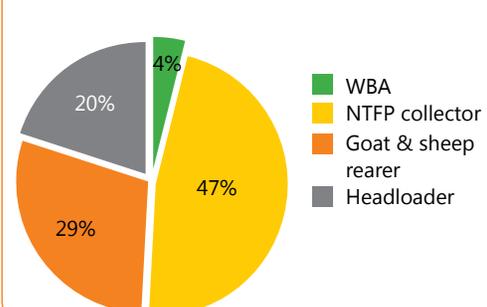
**Categories in Forest Dependence**



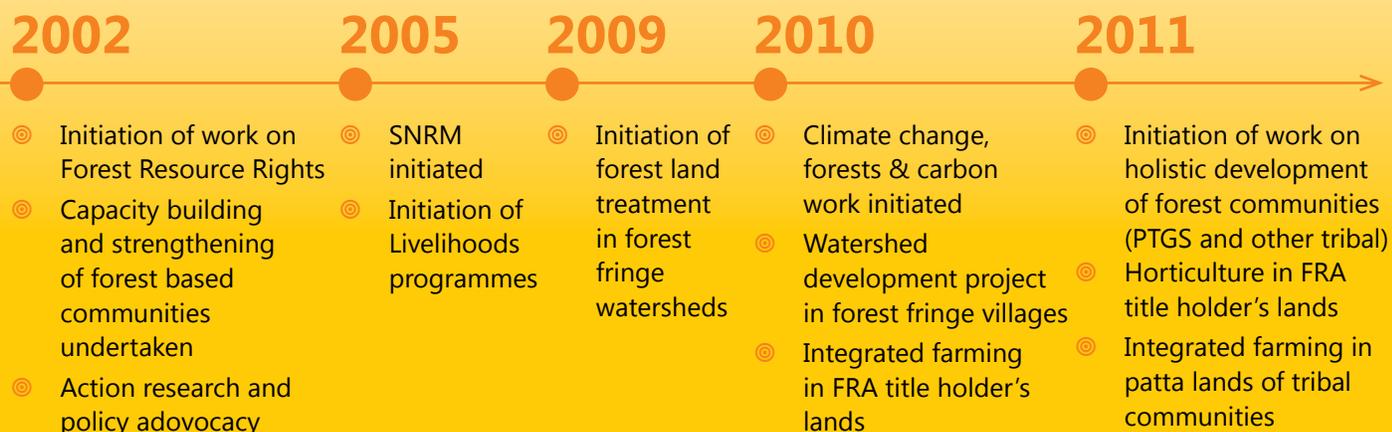
**Livelihood Pattern Among VSS Members - Coastal Region**



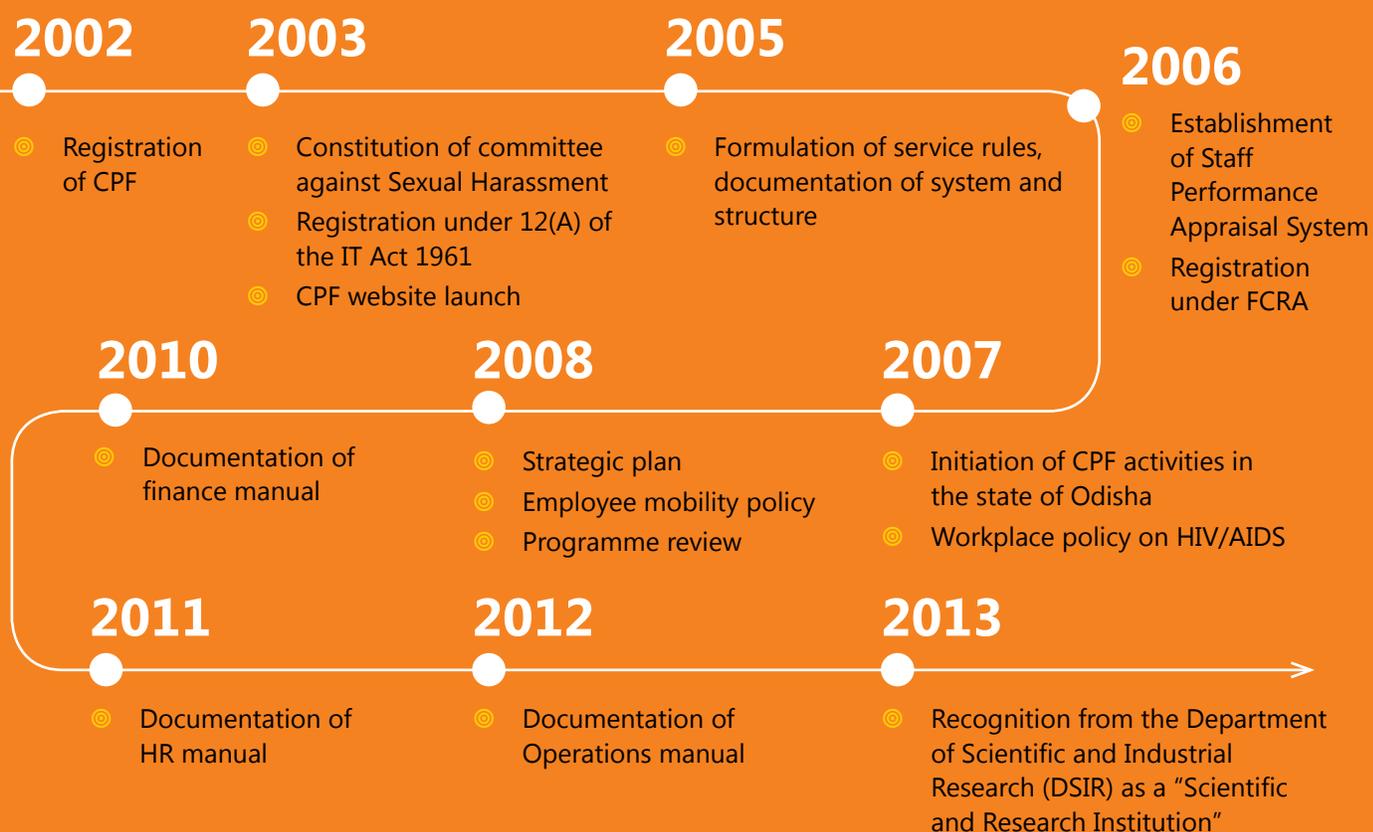
**Categories in Forest Dependence**



## Figure 1: Milestones in Programme Development



## Figure 2: Milestones in Organisational Development



The notification of the Forest Rights Act 2006 and Rules 2007 in 2008 allowed CPF to facilitate submission of claims and to follow up on the claims till titles for both individual and community rights were received, and oversee the actual implementation of these rights. It has become part of CPF's regular agenda that after helping them gain their titles, to help FRA individual title holders with integrated agricultural practices and moving on in 2011 to holistic development of communities by addressing agriculture as well as basic health care and primary education.

The forest lands that form crucial ridges to the watershed projects supported by NABARD were in need of treatment for an effective implementation. However, owing to the lack of cooperation and coordination between watershed PIAs and the Forest Department, the treatment plans excluded forest lands. In 2009, CPF started work in a project to bring in change in the situation. This challenging task was done in collaboration with - WASSAN, the resource agency for NABARD watershed projects in the area, the local NGOs implementing the projects, the forest department, NABARD, MNREG, watershed communities and VSS communities. The experiences of this project led to CPF implementing two Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) projects in Adilabad district, and to apply the lessons learnt in ongoing IWMP projects in the state.

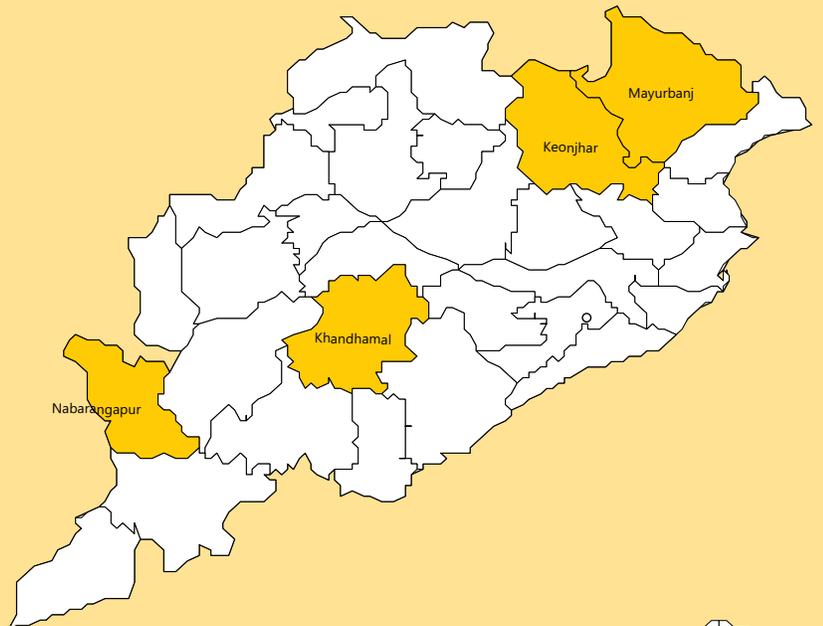
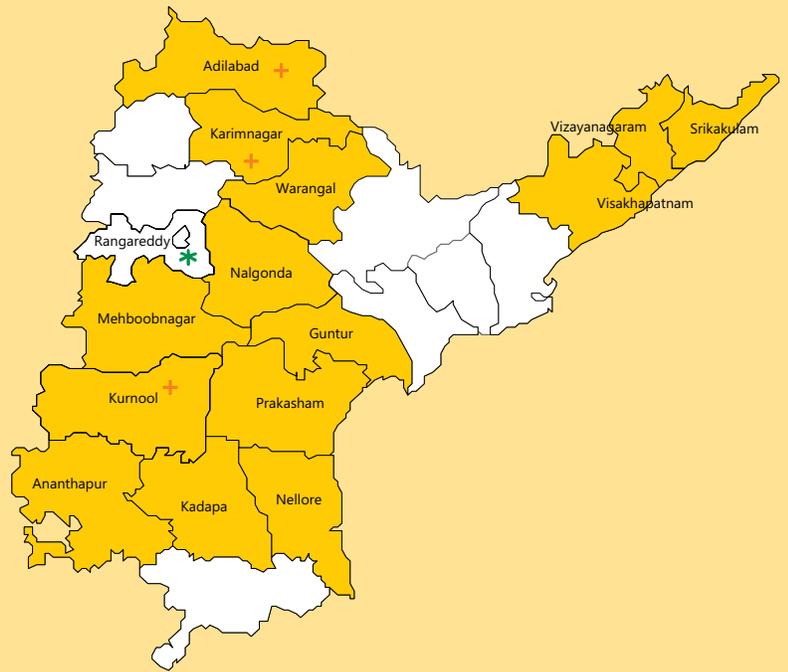
The latest areas of work involve sharing of the knowledge of climate change, forests, and carbon credits with various communities and developing adaptation strategies through action research and pilot projects in areas prone to erratic rainfall and drought, for the benefit of tribal farmers.



The scope of CPF's work has moved beyond its cradle, from Andhra Pradesh to Odisha.

### Operational Area

List of project locations where CPF has worked for the last decade	
State	Districts
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad Karimnagar Mehboobnagar Warangal Nellore Ananthapur Kadapa Kurnool Visakhapatnam Vizianagaram Srikakulam Medak Prakasham Guntur Nalgonda
Odisha	Khandhamal Nabarangpur Keonjhar Mayurbanj
Jharkhand	Hazaribagh



+ CPF direct presence

\* CPF head office

## Participating communities

Sustainable forest management as a means of enhanced livelihood security for the marginalised and the poor among forest dwellers is the core purpose of CPF. Among them are STs, SCs, OBCs, and minorities like Muslims. The worst-off are tribal communities, poorest of the poor, farthest from access to government programmes and schemes. CPF brings these projects closer to them and focusses on the empowerment of women and capacity building in these communities.

Collaborating with Communities	
Location	Community
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	
Srikakulam	Kapu Savara, Konda Kapu, Jatapu, Savara
Paderu and Narsipatnam	Bagata, Kondadora, Nukadora, Sudda, Valmiki, Kojja,
Visakhapatnam	Khonds, Kammari , Porja (Kammari and Porja only in Visakhapatnam)
NSTR	PTG - Chenchus
Adilabad	Kolams, Gonds, Nayakpodu, Lambada, Pradhans
Nellore	ST – Yanadi, Yerukula SC – Mala, Madiga BC – Chakali, Mangali, Kummari, Golla OC – Reddy Others – Muslims
<b>Odisha</b>	
Nawarangpur	Bathra, Kandh, Panav, Paraja, Gond
Kandhamal	

In keeping with its vision and mission, CPF is establishing models that can be replicated elsewhere. It has focussed on community management of forest resources and livelihood security for marginalised sections of forest dwelling and dependent communities in selected project locations using appropriate policy and implementation frameworks. Its approach, which is collaborative and integrated, ensures involvement and participation of communities. This helps them realise the benefits and potential in participation, and a sense of ownership in the projects taken up.

Thanks to CPF's facilitation, households and communities in the project areas have received individual and collective rights provided under Forest Rights Act (FRA). The efforts of CPF have given the communities the confidence to demand and win the right to harvest bamboo as well, with efforts on to get more rights on bamboo utilisation. Many communities participate in watershed management in the forest fringe areas, treatment of forest lands that form the ridge of the watersheds, and fodder management in forest areas.

# Beneficiaries of Interventions

Sl.No	Intervention	Location/ community	No. of beneficiaries	Period
1	VSS Networking	Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam, Nellore, Srikakulam, Ananthapur, Kurnool, Chittoor, Medak, Mehboobnagar, Adilabad, Khammam, Warangal <b>(ST, SC, OBC, OC)</b>	80800 HH	2002-13
2	NTFP collection & sale	<b>Khammam</b> (Konda Reddy, Koya)	495HH (11 Shandies)	2004-06
3	Bamboo harvest	<b>Srikakulam</b> (Kapu Savara, Konda Kapu, Jatapu, Savara, Mala)  <b>Visakhapatnam</b> (Konda Dora, Bhagata, Nukadora, Kammari)	2935 HH  1267 HH	2004-13
4	Adda leaf plate making	<b>Visakhapatnam</b> (Konda Dora, Bhagata, Nukadora, Kammari)	7780 tribal women	2005-08
5	NTFPs (value addition)	<b>Visakhapatnam</b> (Konda Dora, Bhagata, Nukadora, Kammari)  <b>NSTR</b> (Chenchu)  <b>Medak</b> (SC-Mala)  <b>Adilabad</b> -Kollam	219 members on Tamarind, 58 members on Amla & 578 members on Soapnut.  314 women on tamarind, 292 women on Amla, 124 women on Adda leaf plate making & 63 women on Soup nut value addition.  50 women on Neem seed value Addition & 5 women on Neem seed value Addition.	2005-13
6	Beedi leaf collection	<b>Warangal</b> (Koya, Naikpod, Lambada) <b>Khammam</b> (Koya, Guthi Koya)	4511 members	2005-11
7	Raising fodder	<b>Kadapa</b> , (OC, BC, Yanadi) <b>Mehboonagar</b> (Lambada, Chenchu, SC)	900 HH	2006-08
8	Sustainable honey harvesting	Andhra Pradesh <b>NSTR</b> (Chenchu), <b>Visakhapatnam</b> (Bhagata, Nukadora ) <b>Chittoor</b> (Yanadi) <b>Kurnool</b> (Chenchu Yanadi) <b>Kadapa</b> (Yanadi, Erukula) <b>Nellore</b> , (Yanadi, Erukula)  Odisha <b>Nabarangpur</b> (Kondh)	Total: 1534 Honey Harvesters  1141 30 151 77 75 30  30	2006-11
9	Embroidery	<b>(Lambadas)</b> Medak, Mehboobnagar, Nizamabad	135 women	2007-11

Sl.No	Intervention	Location/ community	No. of beneficiaries	Period
10	Forest Rights Act –Individual Forest Rights	Andhra Pradesh <b>Srikakulam</b> (Kapu Savara, Konda Kapu, Jatapu, Savara) <b>Visakhapatnam</b> (Konda Dora, Bhagata, Nukadora, Kammari) <b>Khammam</b> ( Koya) <b>Nellore</b> (Erukala, yanadi) <b>Medak</b> (Lambada)  Odisha <b>Kandhamal</b> (Kandha,kui), <b>Nabarangpur</b> (Kondh)	Facilitated submission of 9486 claims, 6799 individuals titles received.  Facilitated submission of 4411 claims, 1126 Individual titles received.	2008-13
11	Forest treatment works-interface with watershed in forest fringe villages	<b>Adilabad</b> (Kollam, Gonds, Lambada)  <b>Karimnagar</b> (Lambada, SC- Madiga, Mala, BC-Gowd, OC)	1100 farmers  300 farmers	2009-12
12	Integrated farming	Andhra Pradesh <b>Khammam</b> (Koda Dora, koya) <b>Warangal</b> (Koya) <b>Srikakulam</b> , (Kapu Savara, Konda Kapu, Jatapu, Savara) <b>Visakhapatnam</b> (Konda Dora, Bhagata, Nukadora, Kammari) <b>Adilabad</b> (Kollam, Gonds) <b>NSTR</b> (Chenchu)  Odisha <b>Nabrangpur</b> (Kondh), <b>Kandhamal</b> (Kandh, Kui) <b>Keonjhar</b> (Bhuyan, Bhumij, Munda)	Total: 2978 HH  281 141 1022  862  207 101  364	2009-13
13	Plantation Harvest	<b>Nellore</b> ( SC- Mala, Madiga, ST- Erukala, yanadi, Muslims, BC-Yadavas, Boya, OC-Reddy's)	4701 members	2009-13
14	Forest Rights Act-Community Forest Rights	Andhra Pradesh <b>Srikakulam</b> (Kapu Savara, Konda Kapu, Jatapu, Savara) <b>Visakhapatnam</b> (Konda Dora, Bhagata, Nukadora, Kammari) <b>Khammam</b> ( Koya) <b>Nellore</b> (Erukala, Yanadi) <b>Medak</b> (Lambada)  Odisha <b>Kandhamal</b> (Kandha, Kui)	Facilitated submission of 172 community claims.74 titles received  Facilitated submission of 79 community claims, 16 Titles received	2010-13
15	Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)	<b>Adilabad</b> (Kollam, Gonds, Lambada)	602 farmers	2010-13
16	VMWDF	<b>Nellore</b> ( SC- Mala, ST-Yanadi, Muslims, BC-Yadavas, Boya, OC Reddy's)	455 HH	2011-13

# Hand-in-hand for a Common Goal

## Partnerships with local NGOs

Local NGOs, with their close knowledge of the project areas, play a vital role in implementing projects successfully. CPF works in partnership with communities either directly or through local NGOs depending on the nature and location of the project. CPF strives to build capacity of grassroots NGOs during the course of executing projects by playing a supportive role. The partnership of NGOs with CPF extends beyond delegation of projects, monitoring and reporting. They drive each other to do their best for the welfare of the communities. CPF often organises workshops and training to capacitate and upgrade the skills of the staff of local NGOs. It engages with bilateral, multilateral and other aid agencies, which extend support to the projects through non-governmental organisations among other sectors to help realise its objectives.



## Collaborations with research and other organisations

Since its inception CPF has been following the practice of seeking collaboration of expert individuals and organisations in its different projects. Thus a few scientists and academicians (from Andhra and Sri Krishna Devaraya Universities) have extended honorary services as members of advisory committees and participated actively in the field-level training programmes for the communities. Student interns from the University of Twente, Netherlands carried out some important action research studies. Some research organisations like Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Regional Agricultural Research Stations of Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Tradition (FRLHT), Centre for Bee Development, Centre for Ecological Studies of Indian Institute of Science, Indian Institute of Forest Management and Regional Station for Forage Production and Demonstration are involved for technical guidance and support in various projects.

## Annual partners' meeting

Every year there is a coming together of participants to CPF's projects, of every title and calling: partner NGOs, CBOs, government officials, academicians, researchers, resource agencies, organisations in similar fields, CPF's advisory committee members and forest workers and experts, all come to the Annual Partners Meeting convened by CPF. The past year is gone over – accounts and programme reports presented, and future plans discussed. Long-term strategies and short-term action plans are developed on consensus. Projects and studies are designed and resource mobilisation sought, based on the needs expressed by the forum. It is a time for interaction, exchange of ideas, and the birth of new ones, action arises from here.



# Core Areas of Interventions

## An introduction

The Centre for People's Forestry believes that the claim to conservation, control, and management of forest resources belongs to the forest dwelling and dependent communities. This central philosophy leads CPF's efforts in bringing a variety of different interventions into play, which contribute to ensuring that the forest dwelling and dependent communities can enjoy their rights in a way that is sustainable, gives them adequate livelihoods, and improves their standard of living.

To achieve this, CPF aims at building their capacities, diversifying their skills, and enhancing their livelihood security. So besides forest rights and tenure security, CPF has concentrated on building and strengthening communities' capacities, helped in participatory and sustainable management of natural resources and has worked on policy advocacy and action research. All these interventions interlink and contribute to the holistic development and achievement of the goal of forest communities living in harmony with their habitat, managing and protecting it, and drawing sustainable livelihoods.

Right from 1996, CPF (then an autonomous wing of CWS) began working on getting forest communities forest resource rights. The Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme was an effective means to this end, and

associating itself with it, CPF rallied to negotiate with the state to ensure just and fair implementation of the JFM, and later its new form, the Community Forest Management (CFM). At the same time it focussed on building capacities of communities for the management of forests. The core active element for the communities is their local Vana Samrakshana Samithi (VSS), and CPF concentrated on strengthening the VSSs so that they may better understand and attain their rights and entitlements, and ensure the implementation of government orders.

When the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 was introduced, CPF exerted itself to facilitate the submitting of claims under FRA and follow up on implementation of the titles. The VSSs helped spread awareness of these rights among communities. Individual titles and community rights were both espoused.

When the World Bank-supported APCFM project concluded in 2010, CPF turned its attention to create awareness on carbon trading, a source of benefit for communities protecting forests. Similarly, the role and rights of forest communities were promoted in the present and future work of watershed treatment projects in Andhra Pradesh.

The quality and wellbeing of forests and the resources they offer are inextricably linked with the wellbeing and sustainability of livelihoods of the forest communities inhabiting them. This truism is the basis for all CPF interventions with regard to forest resources. The forests are best looked after in collaboration with their communities, and they also need to be given the capability to use and care for their forest resource base well. Strengthening community forest systems is one of the most important focuses of CPF interventions. Key to this is the development of suitable micro-plans by the community and its organisations such as the VSS.

To look after a forest, one needs to know about it. Biodiversity registers document the species and their role in the forest and in the community. CPF has actively lobbied to empower local communities to document biodiversity, and to maintain the connect between community forestry, biodiversity, and its documentation.

Forest communities were trained in sustainable harvest and management of resources such as honey, bamboo, and *beedi* leaf. To create a sustained resource base, the participatory monitoring and care of the resource species was facilitated, and its importance explained.

A survey revealed that livestock rearing is an increasingly important source of livelihood for forest dependent communities in the arid and semi-arid regions, and is putting mounting pressure on common lands and forests used for pasture. To restore a balance between livestock, environment, and livelihood, CPF launched interventions for fodder

generation and management by village committees in collaboration with government line departments. Integrated farming, with agro-forestry of horticultural and other useful tree species, has been encouraged for livelihood enhancement. Alongside, farmers are being informed of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilisers in Farmer Field Schools, (FFS).

Such alternatives give communities a more diversified and sustainable set of livelihoods besides direct collection of forest produce. Similarly, women are starting to make a respectable income from embroidery, *adda* leaf products, and neem seed processing.

Starting with facilitating a research study of a sample cluster of villages on climate change impacts on the water cycle, ecosystem functioning, and livelihood changes, CPF has undertaken Participatory Action Research to estimate carbon stocks in VSS forests. CPF has also been closely associated with the Green India Mission from its inception.

All these core areas of interventions by CPF over the past 10 years are described in the following pages.



## Forest rights & tenure security

Forest communities should have the right to ownership of the forests they live in and depend on, in order to effectively conserve and manage them, utilise their resources, and have security of livelihood. CPF began work on securing communities forest resource rights in 1996 as an autonomous wing of Centre for World Solidarity. The Joint Forest Management (JFM) was found to be the best way to go about it at the time, and CPF collaborated on it and worked at ensuring just and fair implementation of the JFM, and later the Community Forest Management (CFM), programmes. Alongside, it built the capacities of the communities to handle the rights and responsibilities that came with the programme.

During these initial stages, CPF came in for some criticism, as proponents of community forestry were unhappy with the JFM programme since it offered no legal backing to forest resource rights or tenure security. However, CPF continued working in critical collaboration with the forest department and building community institutions, federating them at range and state levels so they could engage constructively with the forest department.

The Joint Forest Management programme in Andhra Pradesh was launched in 1992 in response to the National Forest Policy 1988 and the guidelines on JFM issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The World Bank supported 5000 VSSs in the APCFM programme, and one of the conditions it imposed for the second phase of its loan programme was emphasis to move to community forestry. Stakeholder consultations



together with the forest department were organised in June-July 2001 with regard to the second phase of the World Bank project, and the recommendations were shared with WB's appraisal committee, and most of the recommendations were included in the CFM GOMs of February 2002.

In 2002, JFM was transformed to CFM. The JFM programme brought about the formation of VSSs, village-level forest protection committees involving communities of the forest fringe villages. Each VSS was allocated a patch of forest for protection and joint management with the forest department under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and promised certain benefits (see Box 1).

*Strengthening community institutions and building capacities* was essential to enable them to properly exercise their rights. Around 8000 VSSs were operating under FDA and APCFM projects. While continuing lobbying along with other NGOs through state level consultations and deliberations for pro-community policy and better relationships between communities and the forest department, CPF focussed on strengthening and building capacities of communities and local NGOs.

Through a network programme of 32 NGOs and 680 VSSs in 12 districts, local NGOs and VSSs were educated on the concept of the JFM-CFM programmes along with the history of forest policy in India, method of VSS formation, PRA techniques, technical terms related to forestry work, the hierarchy in the forest department, gender concerns, sustainability of the VSS institution, and sustainable forest management.

This capacity building was achieved through concerted team building exercises, participatory action research, ToTs combined with the annual partners' forum, monitoring visits, and review meetings at periodic intervals. Resource material developed by CPF augmented the training. Besides booklets, posters, manuals, and hand-outs, cultural teams put up performances in villages. The material developed by CPF has been used by APFD in its programmes.



### Box 1

## Benefit-sharing for member VSSs in CFM, 2002

1. All NTFPs including beedi leaf can be collected and sold by members.
2. 50 percent of all C-Fee\* collected.
3. 50 percent of royalty received by government on beedi leaf sale
4. Small timber and bamboo plantations – 100 percent net returns to VSS; 50 percent to be utilised for forest regeneration, 50 percent equally shared by members.
5. Teak and high-value timber – depending on plantation age, period of maintenance, proportionate returns on first harvest, and 100 percent for subsequent harvests.

\*C-Fee: Compounding Fee collected from smugglers caught with timber.



CPF continued its work in this area and formed VSS networks at range level and state level (Vanasamakhyas), to see that the provisions in the CFM government order were implemented effectively. These networks have been strengthened over a period of time to enable them to tackle field-level implementation issues as well as represent matters to concerned authorities about policy issues and to have independent engagement with the forest department and other line departments regarding their problems. As a result, over 2000–2003, VSSs had a greater say in forest management decisions.

*Micro-plans* help forest management; they factor in social, institutional and resource aspects of the village, and the type and nature of forest resources, and are a basis for strengthening the VSS institution and sustainable forest management. Through training VSS members in the process of micro-plan preparation process, CPF ensured enhanced participation of communities. Their improved grasp of forest management has also helped communities have better communication with the forest department about their resource rights.

*Participatory performance assessments* of a VSS by its members strengthens the institution. The VSSs discover how far goals have been achieved, modifications needed to match changing needs, issues affecting work, gaps and areas needing attention, and so on, in social, institutional, resource, and livelihood aspects. CPF developed the methodology and helped Vanasamakhyas take up this work for the forest department in assessing the performance of around 4000 VSSs in eight forest divisions.

The action research carried out over the past 10 years has earned CPF recognition from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) as a “Scientific and Research Institution” in May, 2012.

*Benefit sharing*, mechanisms were clearly defined in 2002-04 CFM government orders, thanks to active lobbying by Vanasamakhyas and VSS representatives. Various issues connected with the availing of benefits were resolved.

## Benefits

### NTFP

The NTFP trade in Andhra Pradesh was controlled by the GCC, and gave the tribal NTFP collectors poor returns. The situation caused mounting pressure on the government to close down GCC. CPF launched action research involving tribal communities as field researchers, and local NGOs, and submitted recommendations to the state government in 2004. As a result, GCC revised its prices and its functionaries were instructed to improve communications with tribal NTFP collectors. CPF has groomed tribal NTFP collectors as NTFP procurement facilitators posted at GCC procurement centres and has created awareness to improve the quality of products, grading, weighing, and sustainable harvesting.

### Beedi leaf

CPF's efforts have contributed to the decision by the government to give 100 percent royalty (instead of 50) to the leaf collectors from the year 2006. CPF, with Vanasamakhyas, carried out a campaign to secure 100 percent incentives and wage cards for *beedi* leaf collectors. On an average each household received Rs. 2183 and each VSS received Rs. 3,80,000.

### Adda leaf

CPF successfully drew attention to the problems faced by the tribal *adda* leaf collectors in coastal Andhra Pradesh, who are the poorest of the poor. The problems were addressed through collaborative efforts with the forest department and GCC by initiating *adda* leaf based livelihood enhancement intervention. Around 5200 tribal women belonging to 262 villages have been trained (2006–2008), increasing their income from Rs.800 to Rs.2000 per month each.

To foster a sustained resource base, awareness creation was taken up and training on *adda* leaf regeneration given.

### Plantation

VSSs forests in Nellore district were protected by the VSS members from 1992 onwards as part of JFM programme, and were harvested from 2004 onwards. There was a delay in the distribution of net returns, which were deposited in VSS first account, but were not distributed to VSS members. The delay in receiving the harvest money created confusion among the VSS members. After continuous lobbying efforts with Forest Department at

higher level by Vanasamakhyas with facilitation from CPF, in 2009 the distribution of net returns was begun by the Forest Department in 39 VSS. The period 2009–2012, saw 4701 households altogether receive Rs. 12,031,113. On average each household received Rs. 2559. A detailed study was also undertaken to document the benefit-sharing mechanism.

### Bamboo

Around 1000 VSSs across Andhra Pradesh are rich in bamboo, a major source of livelihood for the communities living in and around the forests. VSS members, especially tribals and Dalits, participate in forest protection, regeneration and conservation actively under JFM/CFM programmes, which provide for 100 percent returns from bamboo to the VSS and its members (half for reinvestment and half for sharing among members) according to the micro-plan approved by the DFO. Regular harvest of bamboo in a planned manner not only benefits VSS members but also reduces the risk of fire incidents in the forests and flowering of bamboo.

However the results of the action research conducted by CPF revealed that bamboo had been harvested only in a few VSSs (200–250) across the state. There was undue delay in sanctioning the harvesting and giving transit permissions. Even in places where it had been harvested, the benefits were yet to reach the individual members. Most VSS members were not aware of the procedures to be followed for harvesting, marketing, and regeneration of bamboo.

Therefore CPF spearheaded action to realise benefits from bamboo harvesting in VSS forests. Awareness creation and capacity building on silviculture and technical aspects in 100 VSSs took place alongside advocacy and lobbying for the timely issue of permits for the harvest and transit of bamboo. With CPF support, representatives of Pachabangaram, a bamboo VSS network, and Vanasamakhyas met the Chief Minister, Environment and Forests Minister, and concerned officials to brief them. The visit yielded quick results, with harvest permits for 32 VSSs, and the attendant benefits.

Most importantly, since the Forest Act-2006 recognises bamboo as minor forest produce and the Gramsabha has authority to sanction harvest and transit permits, all 100 VSSs passed Gramsabha resolutions and sent them to the honourable Chief Minister in 2011–12. To further enhance income from available bamboo blocks, CPF is striving to help these VSS get community titles to these bamboo blocks, as part of community forest resources.

*The Forest Rights Act, 2006* owes its final form to consultations and feedback organised by several NGOs and their networks across the country including CPF. When the rules came into force, CPF continued awareness-building among communities and facilitating claim process through partner NGOs, Vanasamakhyas, and VSSs. Individual titles and community forest rights – Community Forest Rights (CFRt) and Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRe) – were both being pursued. While the FRA was being implemented, CPF noticed a lack of interest in community claims both among government and community. Insufficient players were left to pursue the matter as donor agencies had dwindled, and huge discrepancies between official and actual figures on the titles were given to communities. All these issues were addressed by CPF and to consolidate the efforts on collective rights across Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, CPF initiated advocacy, by lobbying at various levels along with its partner NGOs and the Vanasamakhyas with special emphasis on the facilitation on submission of claims by community members. CPF organised a State-level consultation in August 2012, where all concerned stakeholders were brought together for discussion and interaction with government officials. Representatives from Maharashtra and Karnataka were also invited to share their experiences.

When the World Bank-supported APCFM project concluded in 2010, the forest department's engagement with the VSSs turned passive; and in places where there were no more returns from the forest, the VSSs also became somnolent. To reignite their interest, CPF turned its attention to REDD and REDD+ for carbon trading, a prospective source of benefit for communities protecting forests. It has been lobbying hard in national and state consultations to ensure that forest dwelling and protection groups get their fair share of participation and benefits from carbon trade. Similarly, the role and rights of forest communities were emphasised in the present and future work of watershed treatment projects in Andhra Pradesh through the IWMP programme.

## Capacity building and strengthening of forest based communities

Supporting and promoting community-based institutions to manage their forests and other natural resources has been a prime area of attention for CPF from its inception. Besides federating VSSs as Vanasamakhyas at the state level, various other community-based organisations were formed for various project interventions – farmer groups, watershed user groups, NTFP collectors groups, and their networks have been receiving handholding support from CPF on several key aspects.

### VSSs and Vanasamakhyas

CPF has been working with forest-based communities through the Joint Forest Management programme since 1996, when it was part of CWS. After it became an independent entity in 2002-03, CPF's project included 680 VSSs in 32 forest ranges with

32 NGOs. They were spread over 12 districts in the three regions of Andhra Pradesh, representing 80,800 households and protecting over one lakh hectares of forest.

Empowerment and self-reliance of VSSs to strengthen them and to effectively implement the JFM has been CPF's priority. Initially range level networks were formed and later helped to federate at state level. The former, known as local Vanasamakhyas, are affiliated to the state Vanasamakhya, registered under the Societies Act in 2003. These Vanasamakhyas have been nurtured and strengthened over time to enable them to lobby at different levels on various issues concerning VSSs. It has been a pioneering move in Joint Forest Management to bring forest communities together at state level and organise them to assert their rights to sustainable development in general and forest management in particular.

Vanasamakhyas, with the guidance and collaboration of CPF and the forest department, carried out several activities:

- ⊙ Training VSS members on various institutional and forest conservation aspects
- ⊙ Participatory Performance Assessment studies
- ⊙ Campaign to ensure 100 percent returns to collectors of *beedi* leaf
- ⊙ Flood relief activities
- ⊙ DET net returns distribution to VSS members
- ⊙ Lobbying for bamboo harvesting permissions
- ⊙ Forest Rights Act implementation, MGNREGS, etc.



## Key areas of Capacity Building

Key areas of capacity building for realisation of benefits and entitlements by forest communities towards sustained livelihoods with due regard to conservation are:

- ⊙ Institutional building
- ⊙ Roles and responsibilities
- ⊙ Micro-planning
- ⊙ Conflict resolution
- ⊙ Record-keeping
- ⊙ Natural resources conservation and management trainings and support for livelihood enhancement
- ⊙ Participatory Performance Assessment of VSSs
- ⊙ Various government orders and circulars released from time to time
- ⊙ Government programmes schemes
- ⊙ Sustainable management of NTFPS
- ⊙ Usufructs distribution
- ⊙ Collaborations for Livelihood enhancement
- ⊙ Organic farming
- ⊙ Agro forestry
- ⊙ Carbon stock estimation and on various technical aspects

As the Vanasamakhya developed into an independent network federation, it was encouraged to seek self reliance. CPF helped it to approach NABARD for funding of a Tribal Development Fund (TDF) project, which was sanctioned – the first time a complete TDF project was sanctioned to a community federation. Under the guidance of CPF, the Vanasamakhya created the VSS Members Welfare Development Fund in June, 2011 from the community's share of returns from the timber harvest from VSS plantations in Nellore forest division, which it has been managing since its inception.

### **Micro-insurance for VSS members**

Due to lack of awareness and access, few VSS members availed of insurance schemes, leading to debts and losses in times of trouble. CPF facilitated interaction between the state Vanasamakhya and Oriental Insurance Corporation in 2009, and the Vanasamakhya was accepted as a micro-insurance agency. Training and skill-building initiatives of community members produced 75 micro-insurance agents. So far 3534 policies have been sold to VSS and EDC members.

### **Regional resource centres**

The three regional resource centres anchored at three partner NGOs in the three regions of the State have been strengthened over the period 2002-08, enabling the VSS federations to develop capacities, expand membership, and build relationships with various stakeholders. The centres worked for region-specific livelihoods, sustainability, and to connect VSSs with other land-based programmes (such as fodder generation) to meet livelihood needs of communities. They also provided support and training to grass root NGOs working in the forestry sector.

### **Thematic resource centres**

CPF also promoted three thematic resource centres at regional level which created awareness through folk art forms and trained forest dependent and dwelling communities on community forestry, Dalit and gender issues, and supported them to realise their rights over forest resources.



**Table 1: A Summary of Capacity Building Activities Undertaken by CPF is Presented in the Table Below**

Sl. No.	Training	Details
1.	Changes in the practice of community forestry	Policy and practice change, networking of community institutions in forestry, and gender mainstreaming.
2.	Collaboration for sustainable livelihoods and forest communities	Engagement with line departments, watershed interface in forest fringe villages and fodder development and management in common lands.
3.	Micro plan preparation	PRA/PLA techniques, data collection, stages of micro plan with one-day field visit.
4.	Enhancing performance of community institutions in forestry	Performance index for community institutions in forestry and social security for rural poor.
5.	Forest returns and benefit sharing	Inventory and harvest plan for bamboo plantations in community forestry areas (VSSs) and gender mainstreaming with one-day field visit.
6.	Facilitation skills for grassroots functionaries	Identifying issues and context, do's and don'ts in facilitation, facilitation around livelihoods and gender.
7.	Research and ICT for development practitioners	Action research methodology and analysis, development communication and documentation.
8.	Community forestry – policy and legislation	National and state level legislations, policies and GOs and linking them to grassroots implementation.
9.	Carbon Stock Estimation. Forest – Vegetation and Soil	Introduction to type of forests and sampling techniques, methodology for estimating carbon pools, data collection and analysis with one day field visit.
10.	NTFP – Resource Monitoring	Participatory forest assessment and sampling techniques, resource mapping, data collection, analysis and reports with one-day field visit.
11.	Networking and Conflict Management in Community Forestry	Conflict management in community forestry and networking of community institutions in forestry.
12.	Biodiversity Register Preparation	Concept, data collection methods, resource mapping, register preparation with one-day field visit.
13.	Wild Honey Harvesting-Safe and Sustainable Practices	Bees and traditional honey harvesting, scientific method of honey harvesting, value addition to honey and wax with one-day field visit.

Field location/s	Community Based Organisations (CBOs)	Purpose of CBO	Areas of Capacity building
Adilabad	Watershed Committee (at Gram Panchayat level)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consensus building among user groups</li> <li>2. Participation in works</li> <li>3. Execution and operation</li> <li>4. Maintenance of works.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensuring timely execution of work</li> <li>b) Taking up regular monitoring,</li> <li>c) Passing resolutions for payment release</li> <li>d) Maintenance of water management infrastructure</li> </ol>
	Uttoor Maa Wadi Development Committee. (at Mandal level) at cluster level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consensus building</li> <li>2. Coordination between village development committees and farmers groups</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Orchid development and management</li> <li>b) Integrated farming</li> <li>c) Livelihoods</li> <li>d) Health</li> <li>e) Nutrition and sanitation</li> </ol>
NSTR		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Earning livelihood through folk arts performance.</li> <li>2. To encourage Chenchu families, especially women, to take up value addition of NTFP such as <i>adda</i> leaf, amla, tamarind and soap nut</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Chenchu youths were trained by the Reffe team on the folk art (Kalajatha) to spread generating awareness on various issues in villages</li> <li>b) Received training on value addition techniques and tools for enhanced income.</li> <li>c) 314 women on tamarind</li> <li>d) 292 women on <i>amla</i></li> <li>e) 124 women on <i>adda</i> leaf plate making</li> <li>f) 63 women on soap nut value addition</li> </ol>
	CEGs – Honey (Common Enterprise Groups) at cluster level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuation of sustainable honey harvesting by Chenchu honey harvesters.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Training on sustainable scientific honey harvesting methods.</li> <li>b) Kit with protective gear and tools.</li> <li>c) Identity cards</li> <li>d) 27 honey harvesters trained as master trainers.</li> <li>e) 1021 Chenchus' honey harvesting techniques.</li> </ol>
	CEG-Tailoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support Service Centre</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 10 Chenchu women trained on designing and stitching of sting protection dress for honey harvesting</li> <li>b) Produced 130 dresses</li> </ol>
	CEG-Adda leaf	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Income generation activity through <i>adda</i> leaf cup making</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 8 women received <i>adda</i> leaf cup making training</li> <li>b) Two machines provided</li> </ol>

Field location/s	Community Based Organisations (CBOs)	Purpose of CBO	Areas of Capacity building
Srikakulam	(Collective Rights Committees-FRA) At village level	1. Community owned conservation and protection of forest resources along with livelihood security.	a) Trained on development of forest conservation and protection. b) Sustainable NTFP collection Fodder generation and management.
Bhadrachalam Warangal Srikakulam Visakhapatnam	At hamlet/ village level.	1. Ensuring FRA individual titles holders group members are trained practice organic farming.	a) Training on integrated farming methods to 246 members through ToTs b) TOTs reached out to 1797 farmers.
Adilabad Karimnagar	VSS level	1. Ensuring effective participation of community in forest protection. 2. Livelihood enhancement of members through participation in forest treatment works.	a) Capacity building on social issues of VSS b) Institutional Issues c) SMC Works and NTFP (Resources) d) Livelihoods e) Institutional relations of VSSs f) Role of women in VSS g) MGNREGA works in VSSs h) Forest Rights Act
Mehboobnagar Medak Nizamabad	Cluster level federation (at forest division level)	1. Enterprise development through embroidery. 2. Increasing the market base for the member artisans.	a) Skill upgradation b) Market linkages development c) 270 women enrolled as members in these clusters
Visakhapatnam	Cluster level federation of VSSs ( <i>Adda</i> leaf collectors)	1. For storage and collection of <i>adda</i> leaf 2. To benefit from collective selling	a) Quality and quantity parameters for stacking the leaf bundles. b) Stitching and book-keeping linked to SGs, GCC and traders for marketing.

## Odisha

The benefits of the Andhra Pradesh model were shared with other tribal regions and work in Odisha began in 2007, following the pattern and methods laid out by the experience in the Andhra Pradesh interventions.

Field location/s	Community Based Organisation/s (CBOs)	Purpose of CBO	Areas of Capacity building
Keonjhar, Kandhamal and Nabarangapur forest divisions	VSS-Village level	1. To enhance the presence of the community in forest management.	a) Micro-plan preparation b) Convergence with MGNREGS c) Bio-diversity Act d) FRA-2006 e) Integrated farming and vegetable cultivation
Umarkote block Nabarangapur	FRC network	1. To lobby with the concerned government machineries for effective implementation of FRA.	a) Institutional strengthening aspects b) Advocacy and lobbying

## Action research and policy advocacy

From its beginnings, CPF has regularly carried out Participatory Action Research for analysis of forestry related policies and practices, livelihood enhancement needs and opportunities, biodiversity, and collaborative research projects in the forestry sector funded by other agencies. The results are used for policy advocacy and for formulating appropriate interventions.

## Significant Achievements

CPF's efforts substantially contributed to the following:

- Putting on hold 112 Government Order (GO) (2000) which is about a tripartite agreement between VSS, the forest department, and industry.
- Inclusion of pro people measures in CFM GO 12 of 2002.
- Amendment to CFM GO in 2004, clearly defining benefit-sharing mechanisms.
- Initiation of APCFM project in locations which do not fall under the purview of GO 10 of 2002 on R&R policy.
- Revision of procurement prices and measures to bring about change in the attitudes of field functionaries by GCC.
- Issue of GOMs 43 by Andhra Pradesh Government and *beedi* leaf incentives actually reached the collectors.
- Issue of 385 GOES for taking up forestry works under MGNREGS.
- CPF and Vanasamakhya's efforts resulted in the development of an operational mechanism by the FD to share the benefits of timber harvesting with individual members of VSS.
- Guidelines by rural development department for taking up forest land treatment in watersheds of forest fringe areas in collaboration with forest department.
- Support by APCFM project to communities and local NGOs for the project "Adda leaf based livelihood enhancement" developed and coordinated by CPF.
- Scaling up of the embroidery initiative by APCFM project.



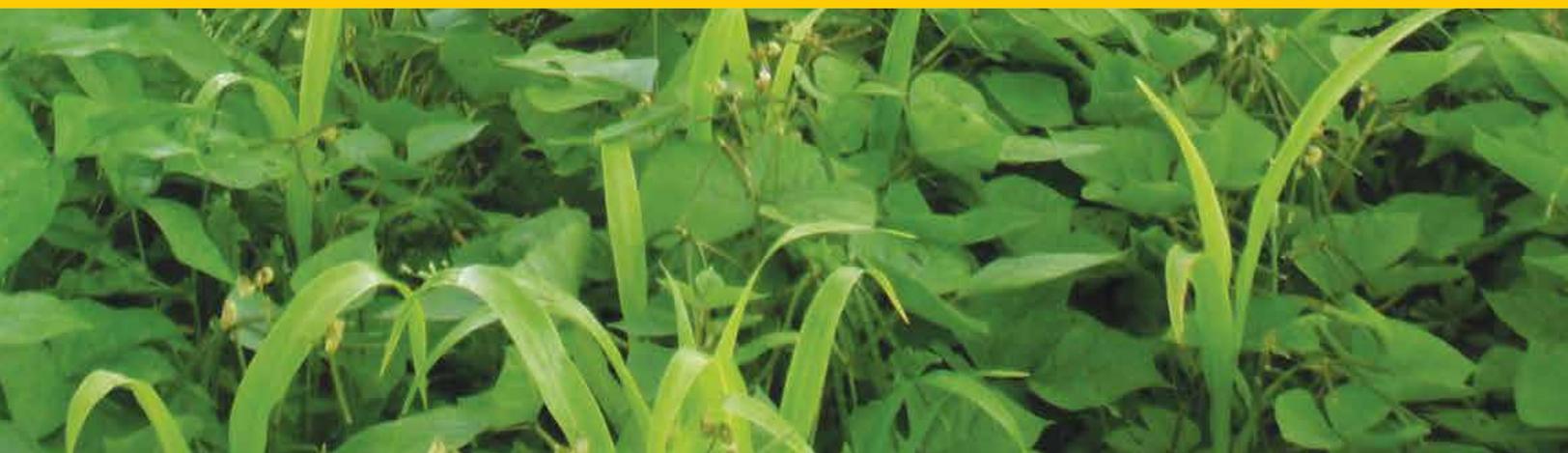


## Strategy for Advocacy through Community

- ⦿ Identification of issue – during regular work, in a new policy/GO/Circular.
- ⦿ Studying the consequences for the communities and preparing a note in local language.
- ⦿ Explaining the pros and cons to the communities in all CPF project locations as appropriate.
- ⦿ Encouraging communities to think and decide on a course of action.
- ⦿ Helping them to pursue the action proposed and planned in the Gramsabha or general body of the community institution.

## Strategy for Policy Advocacy by CPF

- ⦿ Participatory Action Research (from taking inputs into the study design to involving community representatives as field investigators along with CPF team or partner NGOs).
- ⦿ Draft report
- ⦿ Sharing draft report in stakeholder consultations for feedback/inputs.
- ⦿ Final report and/or policy brief with specific recommendations.
- ⦿ Sharing report/brief with concerned authorities along with a covering letter (besides dissemination to all concerned).
- ⦿ Follow up interactions
- ⦿ Results – Mostly positive with desired outcomes sometimes negative with no action.



CPF has focussed on both needs-based and rights-based advocacy, depending on the issue involved, and has included local NGOs and VSSs, as needed. In both cases it is based on evidence. Over the past 10 years, it accomplished several pro-people measures in the government orders, guidelines, and circulars for effective implementation. Facilitating multi-stakeholder consultations for building a common perspective on contentious issues is one of the key interventions on the advocacy front.

On the national level, Green India Mission, Forest Rights Act 2006, exigencies for community forestry, consultations and workshops are some of the achievements and activities of CPF. At the state level, CPF has done significant advocacy for the rights of NTFP collectors, the continuation and improvement of GCC, change in policy in favour of *beedi* leaf collectors, and fostering collaborations with other stakeholders, the forest department, and the rural development department. It has also contributed to the formation of the Odisha State Biodiversity Board.

The CPF, besides lobbying directly, made special efforts to empower communities, CBOs and Vanasamakhyas to take up advocacy and advance for changes in policy and implementation on their own strength. The efforts of CPF and Vanasamakhyas resulted in the development of an operational mechanism by the forest department to share the benefits of forest produce sales. CPF took steps to develop self sustainability for the VSSs, by lobbying for funds from forest returns to be shared. Consultations, workshops, and meetings were organised to deal with various forestry issues. CPF's annual partners' meetings are platforms for lobbying and advocating among communities, local NGOs, and government officials. Here, field-level issues are discussed directly with officials, enabling them to take appropriate action.



*Mainstreaming Gender* has been an ongoing concern throughout the working of CPF and has been pursued at all levels, cutting across all themes and activities. Special attention has been given to ensure parity of numbers in managerial positions in community organisations like VSSs, groups, and networks.

*HIV/AIDS Concerns* have also been mainstreamed by sensitising and building capacities of all its regional partners, NGOs, and CBOs, and as an intervention that cuts across all developmental programmes.

## Participatory SNRM and livelihoods

The livelihood security of the people living in and around forests depends on sustainable management of natural resources and CPF has concentrated its interventions on this crucial aspect. There is a direct link between the quality of a forest or natural resource managed on a sustainable basis and the sustainability of livelihoods of the community. This truth formed the basis for all CPF interventions with regard to forests and natural resources.

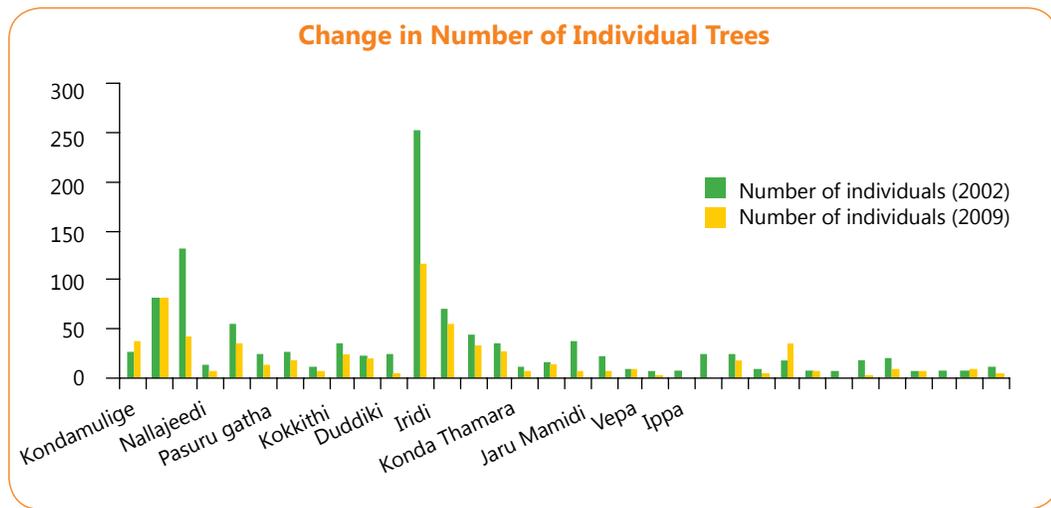
### Forest resources

Community forestry is the way to sustainable management of forests for sustainable livelihoods. Strengthening community forestry systems across project areas is one of the most important focuses of CPF interventions. The key means to achieving this are proper planning and knowledge on which to base the planning process.

*Micro-plans*, mentioned in the previous page has been developed and implemented in all 680 VSSs in the project areas of CPF. It played a key role in standardising the preparation of VSS micro-plans, and developed a “Facilitator’s Guide to Micro-plan Preparation”, used by the Andhra Pradesh forest department. The CPF model of micro-plans is being used in Odisha and Assam.

*Biodiversity Registers* are systematic and scientific documentation of the richness and diversity of species and indigenous knowledge of forest resources (especially medicinal plants). Done in participation with local communities, they build their capacities by making them aware of the importance of conservation and management of biodiversity, equip them to face challenges such as patenting by outsiders and possible threats leading to depletion of forest resources. CPF has actively lobbied for empowering communities to document biodiversity in relation to community forestry in the form of People’s Forest Biodiversity Registers. It began work in 2001–2002, with all partner NGOs and about 600 VSSs were involved in training on biodiversity issues. Following this, 34 VSS community biodiversity registers (FBRs) were prepared in ten districts across Andhra Pradesh. They recorded people’s knowledge, perception, impact, protection, and uses of local plant biodiversity.

Biodiversity Registers updates were made in 2008 by revisiting the plots where the original registers were recorded, and changes in species, composition, abundance, extent, and the status of natural regeneration were also noted. Six representative VSS forest plots (two each from the three regions of the state) were revisited, and it was found that while species richness (the number of different species) had increased in most forests, the number of individuals per species had decreased. These findings were published in the form of an action research report.

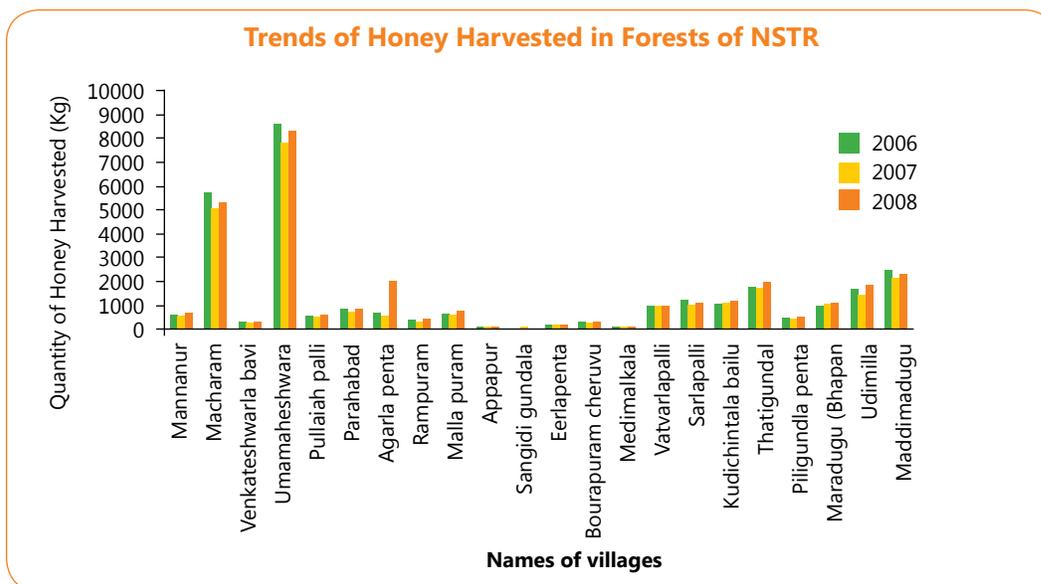


Change in species composition and diversity is inevitable. With continuous biotic pressure from the ever-increasing dependent population and livestock, the quality of forest and per capita share of the forest is on a decline. Documenting these changes by assessing the current status will help the community understand the status of available resource, and thus would be receptive to scientifically sustainable methods of harvest and use.

*Resource management gives sustainable harvests.* CPF's interventions in the communities' management and harvest of forest resources such as honey, bamboo, *beedi* leaf, etc. reflected on the same.

The Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) in the Nallamalla forest chain is one of the well-known sources of forest honey in India. Among its tribal communities, the largest group, the Chenchus, derive their main livelihood from the collection of forest honey, but their traditional methods of collection are considered unsafe, harmful to the bees and the forest and general ecosystems. As a result bee colonies were fewer and the quality of honey poorer, fetching lower prices. The youth were not keen to continue in this profession, and with decimated bee populations, the forest and general ecosystem would suffer, as bees are natural pollinators.

To address these concerns, during 2006-2010, CPF capacitated around 1021 available resources, to make them receptive to scientifically sustainable methods of harvest and use. This brought about positive changes in honey harvesting. As a direct result, with increased health safety and quality of the product, the Chenchu households had a 20 percent income enhancement through honey in three years. The techniques of forest honey harvesting were also replicated in two villages of Nabarangapur.



## Bamboo

CPFs intervention in bamboo started in 2005, with a long term objective to make bamboo-rich VSSs in Andhra Pradesh, self reliant with respect to technical, financial and management aspects of sustainable bamboo management. This was done with an intervention covering harvest, marketing, and regeneration, with an aim pass on the benefits to the level of individual members. Regional Resource Centres set up at a partner NGO to focus on Bamboo, created bamboo local networks to bring issues related to bamboo and tribals to the fore. Bamboo block mapping and involving these networks and VSS members began in 2007–08. The training of members of 100 VSSs in sustainable bamboo practices was done in 2009–10, in convergence with MGNREGS, and helped in the preparation of bamboo management plans by local VSS. At present about 100 such management plans are in place.

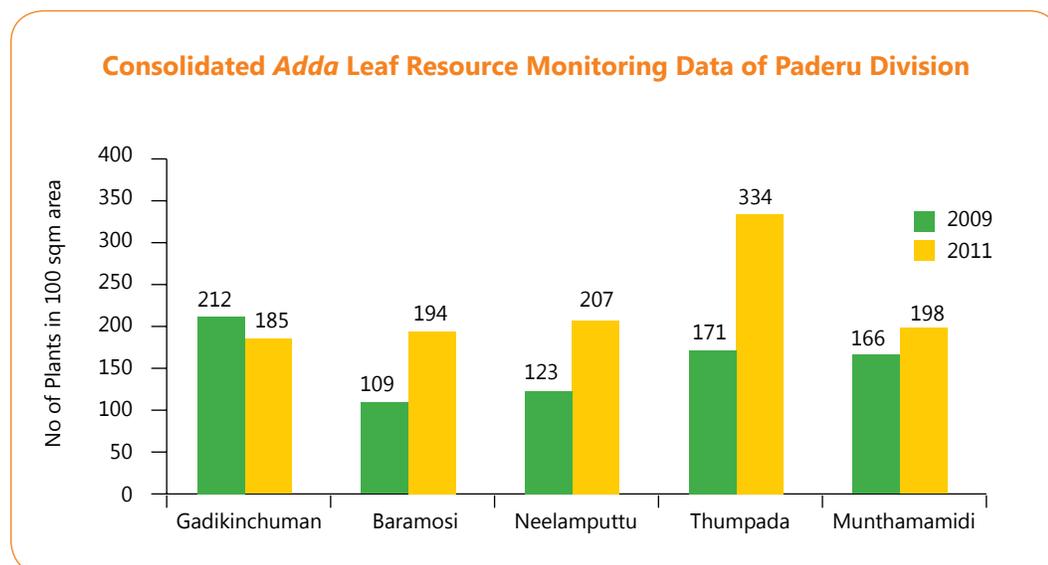
No of VSS	100
No. of HH's	4,248
Total extent of VSS Forest (ha)	19,656
Total extent of Bamboo (ha)	13,265
Expected income for 3 years	Rs. 42,76,41,521
50% amount for 3 years	Rs. 21,38,20,761
Community share average/year	Rs. 7,12,73,587
Expected average income for 1 year/HH	Rs. 16,778
Expected average income for 3 years/HH	Rs. 50,334

*Beedi* leaf (Abnus leaf), abundant in the Telangana region, is a supplementary source of income for the poorer people in the summer season when little employment is available. Through the Vanasamakhyas there, CPF learnt that the communities were unaware of the provisions of GOMs 13. It was also found that unsustainable practices prior to harvesting were greatly affecting the forest and its biodiversity, impacting the resource in the long run. Hence an awareness campaign was taken up through the Vanasamakhya through posters on the importance of practicing pruning of the plants for better quality and quantity.

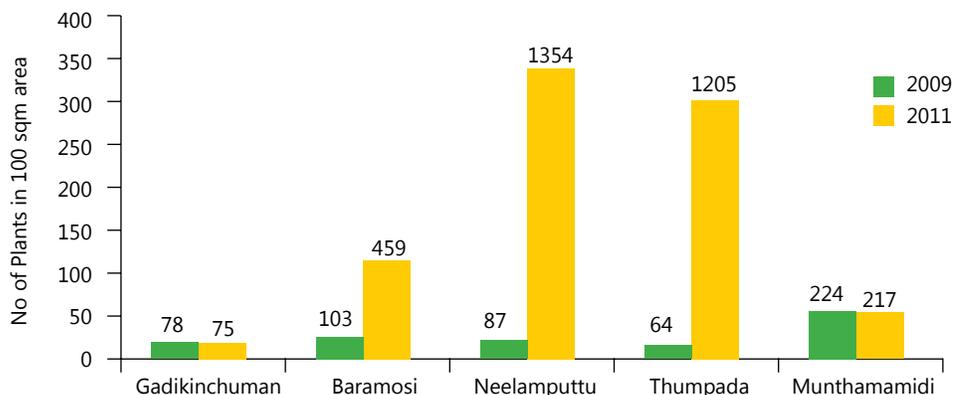
Participatory Resource Monitoring results in the community collecting data over time, and following up with regeneration activities to help sustain the resource for future.

For instance, CPF assisted participatory resource monitoring of *adda* leaf by the community in 15 VSSs of Visakhapatnam forest circle in 2009, and helped in data collection. The importance of protecting seedlings and saplings in order to have a sustained resource in the future was explained to them. When the locations were revisited in 2011 and the population of *adda* leaf recorded, the villagers saw the value of protection: almost all VSSs showed an increase in the plant population. An *adda* leaf nursery was set up, to encourage the forest department to do the same. Saplings from here were planted in VSS forests in 2009-11, and regeneration monitored by VSS members. Awareness meetings in 150 VSSs during 2009-12 resulted in 71 of them submitting a resolution asking the forest department to add *adda* leaf regeneration work in micro-plans to sustain it under MGNREGS.

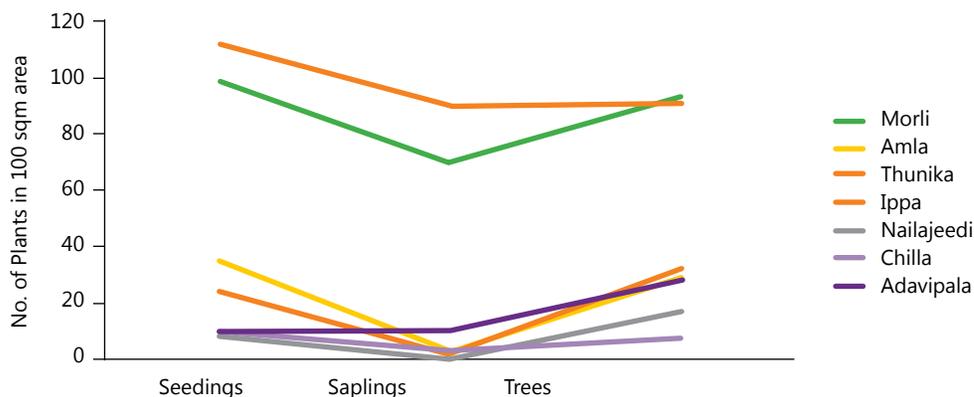
Participatory resource monitoring was done by communities of important species of NTFP in eight locations in 2008-09.



### Consolidated *Adda* Leaf Resource Monitoring Data of Narsipatnam



### Status of Availability of Major NTFPs in Forests of Badrachalam Division (2009)



### Forest land treatment in forest fringe watersheds

Watershed treatment principles require a "ridge to valley" approach; that is, interventions must start at the forested ridge portion of the watershed area. This ensures design economy, longer life to the measures, and appropriate land use at various levels of the area. When this principle is ignored, watershed treatment measures and structures remain stop-gap, and are soon damaged or destroyed. The watershed treatment is incomplete as its upper reaches are untreated. Where product flows are linked between forest, agriculture, and livestock, the watershed programme will not work if the ridge forests are left out. In ignoring these forests, great opportunities are missed out such as strengthening of forest-based livelihoods for communities living close to forests, creation of additional buffer resources (especially fodder) within revenue lands, and reduction of pressure on forests.

Therefore, in 2009 CPF and WASSAN together started a project, "Interface with Watershed Projects in Forest Fringe Areas". The watersheds selected are run by Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs), supported by NABARD, and WASSAN is the resource agency. The long-term objective of this project is to conceptualise, demonstrate, and upgrade ways of integrating people's forestry issues with watershed programmes through the participation of community institutions and line departments in forest fringe villages across the state and possibly the country.

In the first year (April 2009–March 2010), pilot projects in three watershed areas aimed to fulfill these objectives. Participating in the initiative were VSSs, Village Watershed Development Committee (VWDC) and other Project Facilitating Agencies (NGOs) under the Indo-German Watershed Development Project (IGWDP).

Following the pilots, in 2010-11, the example was replicated in 13 other watersheds. These 16 watersheds cover 24,301 ha of watershed lands (excluding forests) and 6,976 Ha of forested lands that form the ridges of the watersheds. Initial treatments are already showing beneficial impacts for farmers in the lower reaches.

As a result, CPF has played an important role in bringing together the forest department and the rural development department to mainstream this process in the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) projects. The first set will be those sanctioned for 2009-10; of the 112 such projects, 78 have forest lands as ridges, and five of these have seen work commence during 2012-13. CPF plans to work at enhancing the livelihoods of communities through the sustainable management of natural resources of forest fringe areas which are being treated in the watershed programme. The goals include conservation and optimal utilisation of natural resources so as to enhance productivity and benefit livelihoods, conservation of soil moisture, improved ground water and vegetation, and other development goals such as purified drinking water, animal health camps, solar lamps, etc.

### **Livestock, livelihoods, and environment**

A livelihood survey conducted by CPF in 2004 showed that livestock rearing, particularly small ruminants like goats and sheep, is an increasingly vital source of livelihood for forest dependent communities in arid and semi-arid regions because of depleting NTFP and recurring droughts. This, combined with decreasing common lands for pasture, has resulted in diminishing availability of fodder, forcing people to migrate in search of pastures, putting greater pressure on forests. A study was carried out by CPF with the University of Twente, Netherlands, to understand the roles of different stakeholders and village institutions in the context of requirements of these livestock farmers. It helped CPF identify key issues and carry out in-depth research in 71 VSSs.

In 2006, CPF began interventions aimed at restoring the balance between livestock, livelihoods, and the environment, reducing environmental degradation, and improving fodder availability through fodder generation and management by village committees in convergence with line departments. At the village level, the project created a multi-stakeholder group; with representatives from women's self help groups, VSSs, watershed committees, Panchayat Ward, and farmers. At the secondary level the project coordinated with forest, animal husbandry, rural development, revenue, and Panchayati Raj departments at the district and state level. The convergence approach played a key role in bringing changes in the practice of open grazing in forest areas.

Training programmes to foster inter-departmental cooperation among mid-level government officials, NGOs, and community organisations encouraged them to look beyond the immediate circumstances at the larger picture. The results were shared with the forest and rural development departments for policy changes and inclusion in NRM programmes. The need to create and sustain the base for fodder development has been emphasised in stakeholder meetings and workshops.

To demonstrate the involvement of communities in fodder generation, management work was taken up in 10 villages of one panchayat to develop 300 acres of revenue waste land. Rs. 28 lakhs were mobilised for fodder development (from MGNREGS), creating employment for over 400 members in the panchayat. This created a sense of ownership in the communities to protect the land and explain and negotiate terms of usage of pasture land with migratory stock keepers. This model was successfully replicated in 2007-08 in developing 620 acres of panchayat grazing lands, which were reclaimed from encroachment through the project, of five Gram Panchayats covering 12 villages of Achampet forest division. Farmers have started cultivating fodder on their lands, which helps them meet their fodder requirements through the year.

Integrated farming has been promoted since 2008 with plantations on community and private lands (mostly on FRA individual title holder's lands) using agro-forestry models with horticulture and other useful tree species, as a means of livelihood advancement. Integrated farming was made a priority in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, and awareness was spread besides, training to farmers on bio-pesticides and bio-fertilisers. Farmer Field Schools are doing good work training farmers in this work.

### **Alternatives in livelihoods**

*Embroidery instead of firewood:* A major cause of destruction of forests is the collection and sale of firewood by forest fringe communities. It is also the source of conflicts between communities and forest officials. Lambada women, it was found, made paltry incomes from heavy labour getting firewood. Market surveys showed a high demand for their traditional embroidery which they had not seen as a commercial prospect.

In 2005, CPF began a project to use embroidery enterprises as an alternative to firewood collection, bolstered by strategies like institution building, skill improvement, quality control, and marketing. The success of the project, and the improved incomes for women, has led to its adoption by the state forest department in other locations.

### Snapshot of the Project

Sl. No.	Clusters	Partner NGO	No. of Members	Catering to orders since
1	Achampet (1)	Conare	30	June, 2007
2	Achampet (2)	Conare	30	April, 2008
3	Medak	Sevasangam	45	November, 2006
4	Kamareddy	SIDS	30	March, 2008
			135	

Since early 2011 women are making the project a sustainable enterprise as they contribute part of their income to meet coordination costs.

*Value-adding neem seed:* In areas with plenty of neem seed, women from the poorest families would collect them to sell at ridiculously low prices. To increase their income by creating a value added product, CPF promoted neem seed pulverising units to make neem seed powder, a bio-pesticide, with the help of the forest department which provided both the machines and a corpus fund for procuring seed. The incomes of members, mostly landless labourers, shot up by 40 percent, some women got regular jobs, and profits were shared by members. The enterprise contributed to environmentally friendly agricultural practices, reduced costs for farmers, and improved soil quality and yields.

*Traditional toy making – sustainable ways:* Making wooden toys has been the traditional occupation of Muslim families in Narsapur range, with entire families involved in various tasks. The toys are sold not only in local *melas* but are also bought by traders and Lepakshi for urban markets. The craftsmen have moved from manually operated lathes to electric ones, and women have been trained in the use of chemical colours, increasing production capacity. The snag however, was non-availability of raw materials, as the requisite wood was in short supply as the few surviving trees have not got time to regenerate. The places where there were enough trees of the species required, there were no craftsmen. So a pilot intervention of cross-VSS collaboration was begun, training the tree-rich communities on the proper harvesting of wood for supply to craftsmen villages. **Unfortunately this intervention was nipped in the bud, as despite persistent lobbying, VSS members were not allowed to harvest the wood though the trees are on revenue lands.**

## Climate change, forests and carbon

It was clear that climate change would impact forests and the communities living with forests. At the start of its work in this field, CPF assisted in field-work for a research study on climate change with Liverpool University-U.K., IISC-Bangalore, IIT-Delhi, and Sevasangam to understand the impact of climate change on the water cycle, ecosystem, and livelihoods in eight villages, in 2009-10.

### Forests and carbon

CPF has undertaken to estimate carbon stocks in three VSS forests across Andhra Pradesh by adopting a Participatory Action Research approach involving the VSS members. Selected VSS members were trained on the theory and technical aspects of procedures of sampling and data collection of living biomass, soil, and dead wood and litter for carbon stock estimation. With the support of IISC-Bangalore, the data was analysed.

### Forest Carbon Stock Estimation Exercises and Results

Sl. No.	Name of the VSS	Forest Division	No. of VSS members participated	Net Carbon stock in VSS forest in tonnes/ha
1	Neelamputtu	Paderu	10	36.2
2	Meroniparupu	Adilabad	10	96.7

### Results of estimation of Forest Carbon Stock in Neelamputtu VSS Forest of Paderu Forest Division

Carbon Pools	Biomass Carbon in Tonnes	Carbon in Tonnes
Trees	16.29	
Shrubs	56.64522	
Dead Wood	1.725208	
Litter	20.57857	
Total Biomass of Carbon in tonnes/200 ha	1707.948998	
Soil Organic Carbon in tonnes/200 ha		5532
<b>NET CARBON STOCK of Neelamputtu VSS Forest in tonnes/200 ha</b>	<b>7240</b>	

CPF, in collaboration with Earth Watch Institute and HSBC Climate Partnership, has undertaken advocacy to corporate executives on the need for conservation of forests and to make contributions to reduce emissions at individual and organisation levels. Around 277 HSBC executive volunteers from HSBC took up the task of estimating the carbon stocks by adopting the ground-based forest inventory sampling methodology, drawn from the IPCC guidelines, 2003 and 2006. From February, 2010 to March, 2011, a total of 13 Local Volunteering Programmes (LVPs) were organised for them. During this period 13

plots were laid, covering an area of 3.0625 ha, with details of 2436 trees recorded, and about 51 tree species were identified.

### **Details of forest carbon in Nathinoipalle VSS of Narsapur forest range**

- ⊙ Total Biomass: 288.624139 tonnes for 3.0625 ha,
- ⊙ Biomass carbon per/ha: 47.12231 tonnes
- ⊙ Total Biomass carbon for Nathinoipalle VSS forest of 159 ha: 7492.44729 tonnes.

This carbon stock calculation will contribute to the database of the national forest carbon stocks and will be studied over a period of time to account for differences in forest carbon stocks as a result of degradation or afforestation programmes.

### **Green India Mission and REDD+**

The Director of CPF has been actively associated with the Green India Mission since the draft stage of the document, and several suggestions have been made by CPF in consultation with other prominent NGOs on the draft document and implementation.

- ⊙ An operational manual on the implementation of the mission should be developed. A year-wise list of activities, its implementation and outcomes, and locations chosen for the projects under the mission, should be listed along with implementation agencies, their role and responsibilities in the operational manual.
- ⊙ The mission directorate should have stronger structural independence and it should be independent of the FD set up.
- ⊙ The delivery system of the mission should be community based, inclusive of (a) usufruct rights to the produce from the forests; (b) benefit sharing mechanism; and (c) capacity building component for the community.
- ⊙ An integration of the mission plan with the district plan is needed and the District Planning Committee should be made in charge of the implementation of the mission, with specific and independent role for the Gramsabha at village level.
- ⊙ Civil society organisations can play a constructive role in institution building, capacity building, community mobilisation etc. An apex body at national and state level is necessary to oversee the implementation of the mission.
- ⊙ CPF has taken part extensively in the process of formulation and review of Green India Mission.

Since the mechanisms for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) are in the process of evolution at international, national and sub-national levels, and community forestry has a significant connect in the overall processes of the REDD+ implementation, CPF took the initiative of organising dialogues with community stakeholders and creating awareness on forestry and climate change including the ongoing discourse on REDD+. It also compiled resource materials and the staff acted as resource persons in the workshops.

Thanks to the strong base in community forestry, and CPF's presence, Andhra Pradesh was chosen for the state and field level dialogues. In this process, during 2011 a series of workshops at various levels, from range to national, were organised. The outcomes were compiled and shared in a national consultation on climate change and REDD+ on 28th December, 2012. Based on feedback from participants, a policy brief was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in May, 2012.

### Workshop participants profile

	Level	VSS/EDC women	VSS/EDC men	FD/ MOEF	NGOs	Others	Grand Total
1	National (1)	5	10	6	28	2	51
2	State (1)	11	18	3	3	1	36
3	Divisional (6)	29	64	69	52	23	237
5	Range (11)	60	235	65	57	15	432
	<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>756</b>





# Way Forward

CPF plans to continue its efforts in making the community realise the promised benefits in the Community Forest Management programme on the one hand and facilitate the process of securing Community Forest Resource Rights on the other. The Gram sabhas will be capacitated in developing and implementing the CFRe management plans. Engagement with the process of development and implementation of National Strategy for REDD+, to see that community views are incorporated in the strategy, becomes an important pursuit with regard to carbon benefits.

Making MGNREGS work for forest treatment through VSS communities, especially in forest lands that form ridges to watersheds, is an important agenda keeping in view the magnitude of the IWMP programme. This will continue till 2028, and considering that around 70-80 percent of watershed projects sanctioned every year have forests as ridge. The VSS communities and tribal farmers will receive sustainable long-term benefits with such interventions.

Promoting integrated farming practices for tribal farmers both in FRA title and revenue *patta* lands, and working in convergence with all government schemes and programmes, with the aim to bring in holistic development of communities in the tribal areas will, be a priority in the future for some years to come.

Community-based fodder generation and management and participatory management of other natural resources in the forest fringe villages, along with other livelihood enhancement interventions, will be taken up for livelihood security.

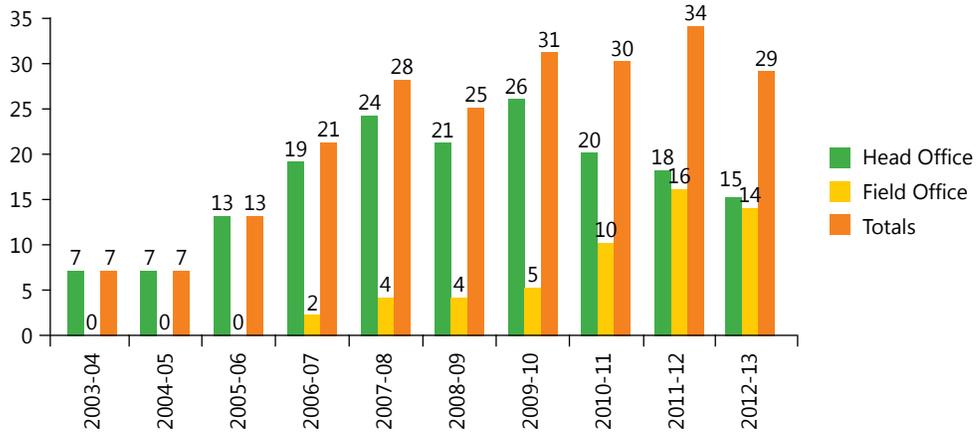
Till now CPF has been carrying out action research connected with its interventions but it has been realised that a lot more research has to be carried out with regard to forest communities and their habitats. The recognition that CPF obtained recently from the DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, will enable it to seek grants for its other research projects.

Action research cum implementation on the impact of climate change on agriculture in the dry land tribal areas and identification of adaptation and mitigation measures for practice by communities will be taken up in pilot scale and the experiences will be used to influence the government to take up similar measures in mainstream programmes.

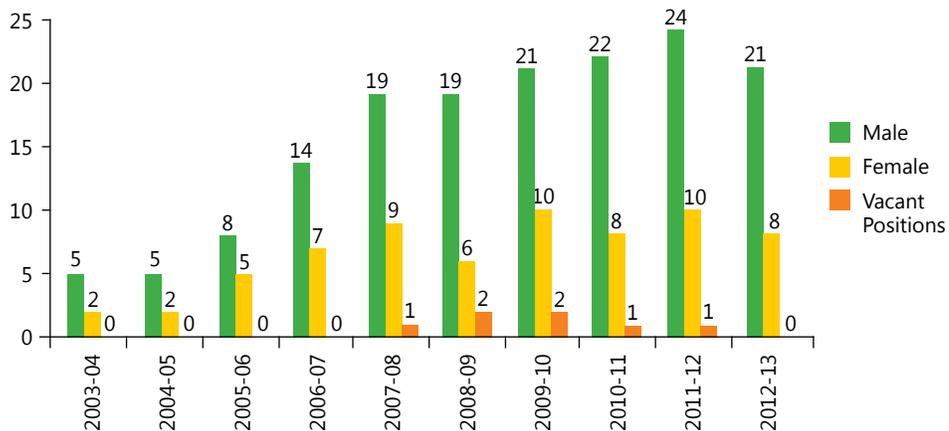
# Human Resources

The human resources desk at CPF tries to evolve with the changing times and needs of the organisation, employees, donors, and development agencies. Its motto is Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Equity in all its work. While recruiting staff, CPF strives to keep gender equity and to give opportunities to classes under-represented in employment figures. At present, the CPF staff numbers 29 including eight women.

**The Staff growth of CPF over the last 10 years**



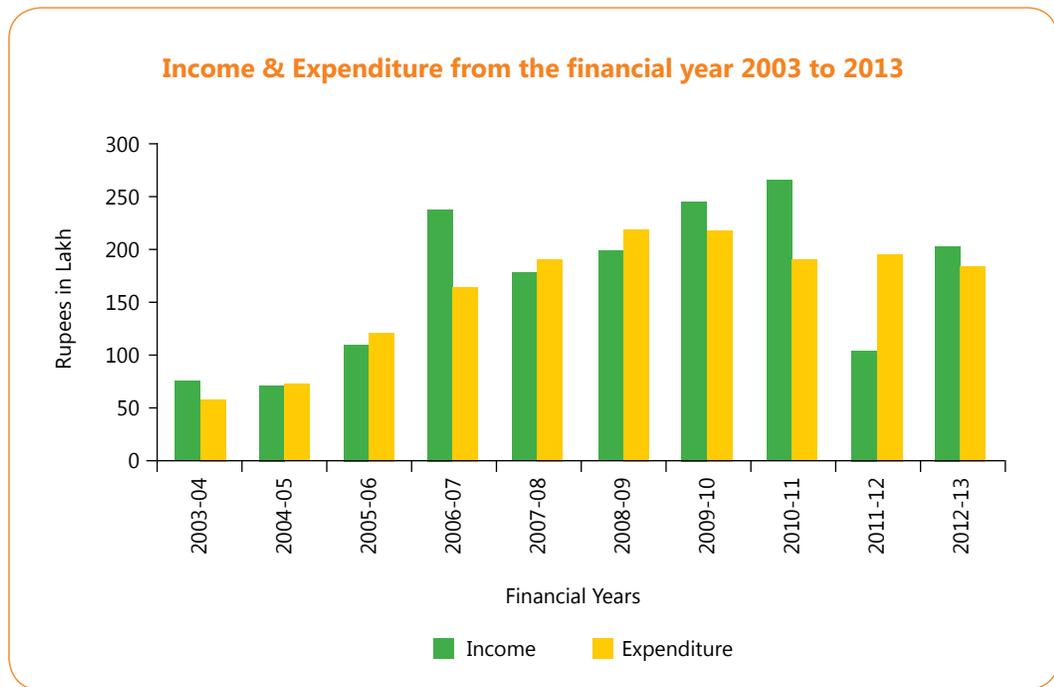
**Gender composition of all levels as on 31<sup>st</sup> March each year**



# Finance

A Summary of income and expenditure for the past 10 years are presented in the table.

The bar chart below represents income and expenditure from year 2003 to 2013.



# Resource Agencies

CPF is funded by both national and international resource agencies. Oxfam India and the Ford Foundation funded the core programmes of CPF in the past, while others supported specific projects. Now, all resource agencies support specific projects.

## A list of resource agencies associated with CPF

	Ford Foundation		ASW
	Rural Development Department, Government of Chhattisgarh		UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)
	Rural Development Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh		IC-India
	EED		IIED International Institute for Environment and Development
	Oxfam India		ODI
	AEI		RECOFTC (Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for the Asia Pacific Region), Bangkok
	CWS		Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development
	NABARD		Winrock International India
	NOVIB		FGLG
			SDTT

# Board of Trustees - A Profile



**Dr. Urmila Pingle (Managing Trustee since 2005)** is a social anthropologist with an MBBS degree as well as a PhD in Population genetics from Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. She has been consultant for many projects and studies of international and national organisations as well as for governments at state and national level. She is a member of many professional societies, has four decades of diverse field research experience in tribal/forestry areas of central India, experience in formulating natural resource development policy and tribal development policies in India, and has published two books and several articles in reputed journals. She has been a member of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, a Central government statutory body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. She was awarded the Indian Council of Medical Research Prize for contributions to “Bio-medical Research in under developed areas, 1989”.



**Dr. Kameswara Rao (Trustee since 2002)** holds a PhD in Environmental Science and is currently Professor of Environmental Studies in Andhra University. His professional experience is immense, and includes more than 28 years in teaching, research, and scientific consultations and 10 years in administration. He has more than 40 researches, three books, and 16 technical reports to his credit and has guided 17 scholars for their doctoral degrees. He has held or holds various academic positions at Andhra University, as Board of Studies Member at various universities, and as guest/visiting faculty in eight different universities. He has held many other honorary positions previously as a member of the Thematic Expert Group on Wildlife Research, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Kolleru Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests, World Bank Supervision Mission on APCFM; AP State Pollution Control Board; AP State Wildlife Advisory Board, and others.



**Dr. Sheela Prasad (Trustee since 2002)** is currently a Professor at Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad. She holds a PhD in Geography from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her research interests include urban and regional geography, and health and environment issues. She has a number of research articles and three books to her credit. She has been part of various teaching/research assignments abroad, at University of Nottingham (UK), University of Pittsburgh (USA), University of Belgrade (Serbia), Dartmouth College (USA), and National University of Singapore. She is associated with Anveshi Research Centre for Women’s Studies, Hyderabad and is currently its President. She is a member of the Board of Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhirudhi Sangh (APMAS), Hyderabad.



**Dr. Manmohan Yadav (Trustee since 2005)** is Associate Professor of Marketing at Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. He is the Coordinator for the Centre for Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification at IIFM. He has 10 years’ industry experience and 17 years of teaching, research, training and consulting experience in the business of international forestry including sustainability and environmental labelling. He has done extensive research and has publications in the field of sustainable forest management and forest certification including four books and more than a dozen articles in peer-reviewed international and national journals. He is a member in the National Forest Certification Committee of Government of India and FSC National Standard Development Group India.



**Sanjay Upadhyay (Trustee since 2004), Advocate, Supreme Court of India,**

is the founder and managing partner of the India's first environmental law firm, Enviro Legal Defence Firm. He also established the charitable arm of the law firm through the Environment Law and Development Foundation. He has been practising environment and development law since 1993. He is an India Visiting Fellow at the Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley (Fall 1996), and a legal intern at the Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund, San Francisco. He started his professional career at the World Wide Fund for Nature – India at the Centre for Environmental Law. He has served as an environmental and development law expert to most well-known international, multilateral, national and state institutions including World Bank, IUCN, FAO of United Nations, UNDP, AFD, DFID, ILO, SDC, IC, IIED, ODI, WWF, Greenpeace, HBF, TERI, Winrock, MOEF, MOPR, MOTA, MNRE, IIFM, ICFRE, IEG, WII, IIPA, NIRD, University of Cambridge, and Duke University to name a few. He has been part of the drafting committees of several forest, wildlife and biodiversity related legislations both at the national and state level.



**Dr. N.H. Ravindranath (Trustee since 2005)** currently a professor at Centre for Sustainable Technologies, holds a PhD from IIT Bombay. His focus areas of research and development are climate change, bio-energy and biomass production, community forestry and environmental/ecosystem services. He has been and continues to be member of editorial boards of many journals. He held memberships in Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), Panel of Experts for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and various national expert committees regarding climate change and other related issues. He has 164 scientific publications to his credit which include 114 articles in peer-reviewed journals, nine books, nine Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) publications, 16 book chapters, four peer-reviewed reports, and others in journals, bulletins, and other publications.



**Dr. Raktima Mukhopadhyay (Trustee since 2005),** is the Executive Director of IBRAD (Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development). Originally trained as a geographer, she has more than 20 years' experience in action research and training in Natural Resource Management, Joint Forest Management (JFM) in particular, in different agro-climatic regions in more than 10 states of India. She has developed a multi-factorial model to understand the role of human interventions and the degree of variance of different interventions influencing the JFM program. She is involved in developing modules to facilitate the process of changes in resource management practices among communities by incorporating action research inputs. She is the resource person for training of Indian Forest Service officers and front-line staff of the forest department and has also conducted trainings at the international level. She has also been involved in conducting impact evaluation studies of different national level projects and programs. She has co-authored three books.



**Dr. Ramdas Rupavath (Trustee since 2010)**, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, holds a PhD in Political Science, JNU. He has 16 years of teaching and research experience and his focus areas of research are Indian political process and tribal development in India. He has published many articles, including in peer-reviewed journals, published a book on tribal land alienation, and has been a guest faculty at University of Uppsala, Sweden. He has also been part of many seminars and workshops, projects under UGC-SAP, ICSSR, University of Hyderabad, and various committees in University of Hyderabad like the SC and ST Grievance Committee, Admissions Committee, and so on. He endeavours to conduct extensive research on tribal development in India.



**Ms. Kalamani (Trustee since 2012)** has held various positions in educational institutions, funding agency and NGOs. She is currently Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director at APMAS. She was involved in advancement of women's rights and supported especially women headed organisations and networks to play a vital role in promotion of gender equality and in mainstreaming gender concerns in various development programmes. She has undertaken many consulting assignments (evaluations, studies, mainstreaming HIV concerns, gender concerns and developing policies etc) for the NGOs, government and donors. She has travelled extensively and gained exposure through visits to other countries on official capacities for new learning, meetings etc.



**Dr. Suryakumari (Ex-Officio Secretary since 2002)**, with a PhD in Botany and a Post-doctoral to her credit, is the accomplished Founder-Director of Centre for Peoples Forestry since 2002 and has worked in many capacities prior to her current position. She is a specialist in social, livelihoods (including micro-enterprises), and policy issues of community-based forest management and has been associated with the communities since 1991 through farm forestry, women's self-help groups, participatory irrigation management, and Joint/Community Forest Management in Andhra Pradesh. In her various capacities, she participated in various international meetings, facilitated organisation of training programmes and development of resource materials, and served as member for many of the Government's policy formulation committees (Green India Mission, CAMPA, IWST, and others). Many reports, papers, publications, active involvement in research are included in her work.



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