



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	TERI
Country:	India
Reporting Quarter:	FY17 Q1
Person submitting Report:	Pia Sethi

<Highlight 1>: Inaugural project workshop

An inception workshop was held in Kohima on 13 June, 2016 entitled, “Does Nagaland need a policy for Community-Conserved Areas? – Policy dialogue workshop”. At this workshop, the GEF-Satoyama project was discussed with diverse stakeholders-the Government of Nagaland, the Forest Department, local CCA and community representatives, and the need for a policy on CCAs was debated. This was followed by a visit to Sukhai village in Zunheboto to formally inaugurate the project and apprise the neighbouring villages of the initiative. A cultural programme was organized by the local communities to show case their rich traditions and discussions were held with the communities. A short write up is provided below:

TERI in conjunction with the Nagaland Forest Department organized a policy dialogue in Kohima to launch the GEF-Satoyama-Conservation International, Japan funded project on, ‘Mainstreaming Community--Conserved Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in Nagaland’. In Nagaland, a revival of traditional conservation practices through the creation of Community-Conserved Areas is spearheading the protection of parcels of forest across the State. A study of Nagaland’s CCAs conducted by TERI and the Forest Department of Nagaland found that almost one-third of Nagaland’s villages have constituted CCAs and as many as 82% of these 407 CCAs have completely or partially banned tree felling and/or hunting within the CCAs, and enforce various regulations for forest protection. The workshop entitled, ‘Does Nagaland need a policy for Community-Conserved Areas’ brought together policy makers from the MoEF and CC, the Government of Nagaland, the Nagaland Forest Department, TERI and community representatives on a common platform to discuss the way forward for community conservation in Nagaland. The workshop was inaugurated by the Dr. Nicky Kire, Honourable Minister of Forests, Government of Nagaland, and the key note address was delivered by Dr S K Khanduri, IG Forests (Wildlife), MoEF and CC. Shri M Lokeswara Rao, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Shri I. Panger Jamir, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Nagaland all reinforced the need for Nagaland to have a policy for CCAs. Shri Neihu Thur, Principal Secretary, Department of Forests, Ecology, Environment and Wildlife emphasized the importance of CCAs and the growing pressures they were facing. Dr. J. V. Sharma, Senior Fellow, Dr Pia Sethi and Mr. Siddharth Edake from TERI gave a roadmap for how CCAs could be strengthened in the State, and introduced the participants to the objectives of the GEF-Satoyama. The workshop was followed by a visit to Sukhai village in Zunheboto district, Nagaland to inaugurate the project with the local communities.

<Highlight 2>: Draft Policy on CCAs for Nagaland

A draft policy on CCAs was developed based on feedback received in the workshop described above, and interaction with various community representatives. A draft is attached. The Nagaland Forest Department has submitted this policy for approval to the Nagaland Government and we are awaiting its notification.

<Highlight 3>: Discussion of project in the local media

The project, workshop and information on a policy for CCAs attracted much local media attention and several newspapers carried stories on the project. These are attached below

Photos

Please include a description of each photo, the name of the person the photo is credited to and the organization they are affiliated to.

Eg.



Group picture at the inauguration meeting in Sukhai. © /Akavi, local community representative



Discussion on a policy for CCAs in Nagaland. Pic Nagaland Forest Department

2 | **NAGALAND** *MORNING EXPRESS 14 June 2016* TUESDAY 14-06-2016 THE MORNING EXPRESS

Dialogue on policy for Community Conserved Areas in Nagaland

DIMAPUR, JUNE 10 (MEXN) Workshop on 'Does Nagaland need a policy for Community Conserved Areas? Policy dialogue was held in PCCF & HOFF conference hall on June 13.

The objective of this workshop is to address the need for a policy on Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Nagaland and to brainstorm on the modalities of developing such a policy including legal, financial and other implications. This workshop is the first in a series under a CF-Japan, GEF-Satoyama sponsored study on, "Mainstreaming Community Conserved Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in Nagaland" that is being carried out by TERI with the support of the Nagaland Forest Department.

Neibu C. Thun, Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Forests, Ecology Environment and Wildlife spoke about the community conservation areas and its importance and growing pressure on CCAs.

The keynote address was given by Dr SK Khanduri, IG Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Dr Khanduri emphasized the need for resources to not only strengthen the efforts but also to sustain the ecological, economic and social benefits accruing from the CCAs. He clarified the weight age of 2.5% to forests in the 14th Finance Commission calculations for devolution of central resources is only the beginning of recognition of the state of forest in the economy. "Evolution of models and a policy on CCAs is needed to integrate community level conservation with sustainable forest management in Nagaland", he added.

Dr Nicky Kire, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change in the inaugural address mentioned that CCAs face numerous challenges in their creation, effectiveness and sustainability and local people require incentives to compensate for lost livelihood opportunities as productive landscapes and forests are set aside for conservation.

He highlighted that in the long-term, threatening the viability of these forested areas are the lost revenues from timber production. A major issue is foregone benefits from the sale of timber revenue for forest management and conservation in the State, in many ways on par with the country's protected area system.

Moreover, these CCAs sequester carbon worth more than 20 crores annually. Despite their importance however, there is currently no policy on the CCAs of the State and few funding avenues available. To ensure the future of Nagaland's CCAs and thereby its forests and biodiversity, a multi-pronged approach including alternative livelihood opportunities through the development of ecotourism, ecological monitoring is required, the Minister said.

However, of primary importance is the development of a policy on CCAs to buttress state recognition, support and funding of community-managed initiatives in Nagaland, he added.

Dr Pia Sethi, Fellow, TERI has given introduction to the GEF-Satoyama project: Background, objectives and expectations. A recap of TERI's work on Community Conserved Areas in Nagaland done by Sidharth Etake, Associate Fellow, TERI, Community representatives from Sengderyu, Sukhai, Khoonoma, Y. Nakhla Phom Secretary Phom Baptist Church Association gave perspectives on Community Conserved Areas. Tokaha, DFO, Zunheboto spoke about Challenges in initiating CCAs.

Discussion session taken by M. Lakeswara Rao, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Government of Nagaland. Concluding remarks were given by Dr. V. Sharma, IFS, Senior Fellow, TERI and M. Lakeswara Rao and Tenjen Yabang Jamik, IFS, CF (Pub) gave the vote of thanks.

Renew traditional conservation and forest management

Giving the introductory remarks, V. Sharma, IFS Senior Fellow TERI said that in Nagaland, traditional conservation and wise use practices have helped protect biodiversity over the centuries.

He said that in Nagaland, customary rights are protected under Article 371 A of the Constitution and about 33% of natural habitats (largely forests) are owned by individual clans, village, district councils and other traditional community institutions. Hence, customary land ownership and management practices characterize forest management in Nagaland, and the local people are empowered to manage their forests under the Nagaland Village Council (third Amendment) Act, 2002 which grants the Village Council the powers and duties "to supervise proper maintenance of forests".

Escalating pressures on forests for multiple uses, has however, adversely impacted the forests and local people, given their dependence on forest cover for a variety of provisioning and regulating ecosystem services. These livelihood issues form a major impetus for the creation of Community Conserved Areas in the State to help conserve and protect key ecological interactions and ecosystem services.

The revival of traditional conservation and forest management practices through the creation of CCAs, offers hope for forest protection and biodiversity conservation, as communities set aside parcels of forests within productive, jhum (shifting cultivation), landscapes.

A study of Nagaland's CCAs conducted by TERI and the Forest Department of Nagaland found that almost one-third of Nagaland's villages have constituted CCAs and as many as 82% of these 407 CCAs have completely or partially banned tree felling and/or hunting within the CCAs and enforce various regulations for forest protection (TERI, 2015). These CCAs which cover more than 1700 sq. km, by setting aside forests for conservation, also contribute extensively to carbon storage (an estimated 120.77 tonnes per ha (TERI, 2013), reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, and are an important mitigation and adaptation strategy for climate change.



Dr Nicky Kire, Honourable Minister of Forests, Government of Nagaland delivers the inaugural address at the workshop. Pic: Nagaland Forest Department



Dr Pia Sethi describes the GEF-Satoyama project. Pic: Nagaland Forest Department



Mr Siddharth Edake details the study on CCAs in Nagaland that formed the foundation of this project. Pic: Nagaland Forest Department



Local Ahuna harvest festival. Pic Pia Sethi, TERI

Does Nagaland need a policy for Community-Conserved Areas?

In Nagaland, traditional conservation and wise-use practices have helped protect biodiversity over the centuries. In Nagaland, customary rights are protected under Article 371 A of the constitution, and about 93% of natural habitats (largely forests) are owned by individual clans, village, district councils and other traditional community institutions. Hence customary land ownership and management practices characterize forest management in Nagaland, and the local people are empowered to manage their forests under the Nagaland Village Council (third Amendment) Act, 2002 which grants the Village Council the powers and duties 'to supervise proper maintenance of forests.' Escalating pressures on forests for multiple uses, has, however, adversely impacted the forests and local people, given their dependence on forest cover for a variety of provisioning and regulating ecosystem services. These livelihood issues form a major impetus for the creation of Community-Conserved Areas in the State to help conserve and protect key ecological interactions and ecosystem services.

The revival of traditional conservation and forest management practices through the creation of Community-Conserved Areas (CCAs), offers hope for forest protection and biodiversity conservation, as communities set aside parcels of forests within productive, jhum (shifting cultivation), landscapes. A study of Nagaland's CCAs conducted by TERI and the Forest Department of Nagaland found that almost one-third of Nagaland's villages have constituted CCAs and as many as 82% of these 407 CCAs have completely or partially banned tree felling and/or hunting within the CCAs, and enforce various regulations for forest protection (TERI, 2015). These CCAs which cover more than 1700 sq. km, by setting aside forests for conservation, also contribute extensively to carbon storage (an estimated 120.77 tonnes per ha (TERI, 2013), reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, and are an important mitigation and adaptation strategy for climate change.

These CCAs, nevertheless, face numerous challenges- in their creation, effectiveness and sustainability, and local people require incentives to compensate for lost livelihood opportunities as productive landscapes and forests are set aside for conservation. The TERI study found that the major challenge faced by 81% of the CCAs is providing alternative livelihood avenues, especially where most of the economic activity in the villages is based upon utilization of natural resources from these CCAs. In the long-term, threatening the viability of these forested areas are the lost revenues from timber production. Creation of CCAs may lower incomes that previously came from the sale of forest products, and also have associated opportunity costs. A major issue is foregone benefits from the sale of timber revenues which has significant implications for the sustainability of CCAs. Since many of these CCAs comprise private or clan lands, owners frequently want these areas returned (particularly as forests improve) for their timber revenues. These issues will need to be addressed, particularly since 58% of the village councils reported facing financial constraints and 59% reported incursions of the timber mafia.

Given that only 11.7% of forests are under the governance of the state, these CCAs constitute the primary method for forest management and conservation in the State, in many ways on par with the country's protected area system. Moreover, these CCAs sequester carbon worth more than 20 crores annually.¹ Despite their importance, however, there is currently no policy on the Community-Conserved Areas of the State and few funding avenues available. To ensure the future of Nagaland's CCAs and thereby its forests and biodiversity, a multi-pronged approach including alternative livelihood opportunities through the development of ecotourism, ecological restoration, and long-term ecological monitoring is required. However, of primary importance is the development of a policy on CCAs to buttress state recognition, support and funding of community-managed initiatives in Nagaland. This is particularly important given Nagaland's unique position under Article 371 A of the Indian Constitution and the consequent inability to utilise provisions under existing Acts, such as Community Reserves under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

¹ Assuming a rate of US\$5 on the voluntary market and annual sequestration of 678135T for Nagaland

The objective of this workshop is to address the need for a policy on Community-Conserved Areas in Nagaland, and to brainstorm on the modalities of developing such a policy including legal, financial and other implications. This workshop is the first in a series under a CI-Japan, GEF-Satoyama sponsored study on, “Mainstreaming Community--Conserved Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in Nagaland’ that is being carried out by TERI with the support of the Nagaland Forest Department.

Community-Conserved Area Policy for Nagaland, 2016: Conserving ecosystems and empowering communities

DRAFT

1. PREAMBLE

1.1. In Nagaland, traditional conservation practices have helped protect biodiversity, and there are records of Community-Conserved Areas being declared in the early 1800s, especially in response to forest degradation and loss of wildlife. Community-Conserved Areas (CCAs) have been defined as, 'natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values, ecological services and cultural values, voluntarily conserved by indigenous, mobile and local communities through customary laws and other effective means².' These CCAs include forests, freshwater resources, grasslands as well as agricultural-forest complexes within their ambit. The revival of traditional conservation and ecosystem management practices through the creation of Community-Conserved Areas (CCAs), offers hope for forest and ecosystem protection and biodiversity conservation, as communities set aside parcels of forests, wetlands and other biodiverse habitats within productive, jhum (shifting cultivation), landscapes. These CCAs, by setting aside forests (and other ecosystems) for conservation, also contribute extensively to carbon storage, reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, and are an important mitigation and adaptation strategy for climate change.

Given that only 11.7% of forests are under the governance of the state in Nagaland, these CCAs constitute the primary method for forest management and conservation in the State, in many ways on par with the country's protected area system. Escalating pressures on forests, rivers, wetlands and other ecosystems for multiple uses, however, adversely impacts the natural resource base and local people, given their dependence on natural resources for a variety of provisioning and regulating ecosystem services. These livelihood issues form a major impetus for the creation of Community-Conserved Areas in the State to help conserve and protect key species, ecological interactions, and ecosystem services.

These CCAs, nevertheless, face numerous challenges- in their creation, effectiveness and sustainability and local people require incentives to compensate for lost livelihood opportunities as productive landscapes, forests, rivers and wetlands are set aside for conservation and rules are set in place to ban or restrict hunting, fishing, fuelwood collection, logging and collection of various products. This is particularly true for Nagaland where clans, individuals and village councils donate their lands for conservation, potentially foregoing more lucrative options.

Despite their importance, however, there is currently no policy on the Community-Conserved Areas of the State and few funding avenues available. To ensure the future of Nagaland's CCAs and thereby its forests, wetlands, grasslands, and biodiversity, as well as its interlinked cultural heritage, a multi-pronged approach including providing alternative livelihood opportunities through the development of ecotourism, ecological restoration, and long-term ecological monitoring is required. However, the primary importance of this policy on CCAs is to buttress state recognition, support and funding of community-managed initiatives in Nagaland including Community-Conserved Areas.

2. OBJECTIVES

² IUCN (2008). IUCN (2008) Indigenous and community conserved areas. Available from URL <http://cms.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/ceesp/topics/governance/icca> (accessed on November 27, 2008).

2.1 The objectives to govern the Community-Conserved Area Policy for Nagaland, 2016 are the following

2.1.1 To recognize that these biodiverse areas support local communities with innumerable ecosystem services including regulating, provisioning and supporting services.

2.1.2 To recognize, promote and sustain the diversity of CCAs in terms of tenure, motivational factors, and cultural and management practices, and to give CCAs their own unique regulatory, cultural and management space.

2.1.3 To recognize that local communities need technical and financial and institutional support to encourage and sustain the practice of CCA formation and sustainable management.

2.1.4 To ensure that the biodiversity, cultural and ecological values of these CCA are maintained for posterity.

2.1.5 To recognize that local communities maintain their own indigenous 'protected area' system in the State, and to strengthen and sustain these initiatives by of linking and connecting adjoining Community-Conserved Areas to ensure viable populations of flora and fauna, prevent fragmentation, support ecological resilience and create wildlife corridors.

2.1.6 To promote community governance and wise-management of resources both within and outside CCAs.

2.1.7 To encourage research, documentation and ecological monitoring by local communities, researchers and institutions to record the biodiversity, ecological and ecosystem values

2.1.8 To ensure the protection and documentation of the cultural values, folklore, traditional knowledge and practices that sustains wise-use of resources, and to ensure that these values are available to future generations.

2.1.9 To promote greater awareness and knowledge of biodiversity, ecological and ecosystem interactions amongst the people of Nagaland.

2.1.10 To obtain recognition of the importance of these CCAs for carbon sequestration and storage, and in meeting the country's climate change targets.

2.1.11 To recognize that these CCAs must be given due recognition through governmental support and innovative means such as payments for ecosystem services, corporate social responsibility sponsorships and REDD plus (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) initiatives, amongst others.

2.1.12 To help promote these CCAs as important areas for low impact, high value ecotourism such as bird, butterfly, nature and cultural ecotourism.

3. The Strategy

3.1 In order to further strengthen and institutionalise Community-Conserved Areas, and to build their capacity for ecosystem management and sustainable use, the following steps should be taken

3.1.1. The CCA landscape should be delineated and mapped and the boundaries well-defined through demarcation, digitization and participatory mapping.

3.1.2. CCA Management Committees (CCAMC) should be constituted by the Village Council to carry out local management functions including formulation and implementation of a Community Ecosystem Management Plan (CEMP). Democratic mechanisms that facilitate the participation of resource users including women in the decision-making process and ensure equitable access and benefit sharing, must be put in place.

3.1.3. The CCA landscape should be managed according to the provisions of the customary law of the village. Village-level management plans of CCAs will be prepared by the CCA Management Committees who may request the forest department to provide technical help to the CCAs in preparation of these Management Plans. These Management Plans should help to create documented records of the biological, socio-economic, cultural and historical aspects of the CCA. As far as possible, these plans should include measurable objectives of how the management approach will achieve biodiversity conservation, integration of traditional conservation practices and community benefits; Moreover, these plans can highlight potential conflict areas and management challenges.

3.1.4. CCA management and enforcement rules should be framed and approved by the Village Council including access to, and sustainable use of natural resources.

3.1.5. Community-based sanctioning mechanisms approved by the Village Council should be put in place. Sanctions for violations of community management rules may be enforced as per customary laws. Efficient, just and transparent mechanisms of conflict resolution and grievance redress within and among CCAs must take place as per the customary laws.

3.1.6.. Effective internal monitoring and evaluation systems including record keeping should be in place. Monitoring of resources and changes over time can be carried out either by communities themselves or in partnership with scientists, researchers, or jointly with the forest department.

3.1.7. Regular independent and objective evaluation mechanisms to assess the status of conservation and livelihoods in the CCAs should be developed by CCAMC with suitable provisions for rewards and rectification.

3.1.8. Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) such as medicinal and aromatic plants, oil seeds, resins, wild edibles, fibre, bamboo and grass provide sustenance to forest dependent communities by supplementing their food and livelihood security. Such produce should be harvested in a sustainable manner while ensuring employment and income opportunities for the local communities. The help of the forest department, scientific and research institutions may be taken to determine the conservation and regeneration status of species and to document or develop sustainable harvesting practices. The potential of such produce to meet demand in high-end markets may be explored by the local communities. A part of the revenue should be ploughed back for conservation, and only sustainable and non-detrimental harvesting practices adopted.

3.1.9. Wherever government funds are provided to the CCAs they have to comply with the guidelines issued vide letter No Dated 2011

3.1.10. National/ international organisations/the voluntary market and the corporate sector are encouraged to support REDD plus initiatives, purchase carbon credits/ offset carbon/ pay for ecosystem services or provide financial support for biodiversity conservation of the CCAs under CSR initiatives. These parties will have to directly negotiate with the communities and all decisions will be taken with the full concurrence of the Village Council and the CCAMC in accordance with customary laws. Modalities of funding, use of funds and any benefit-sharing mechanisms will be worked out with the Village Council and all financial benefits will directly accrue to the community. The Forest Department will only play a catalyst role and the guidelines issued vide letter No Dated 2011 have to be followed.