

FES

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



Collecting local grass seeds for restoring landscapes

The conservation of native biodiversity is deeply intertwined with the traditional knowledge and practices of local communities. The illustrations used in this report highlight the biodiversity of the region, with focus on some of the endangered species found in these landscapes, which are thriving, owing to community conservation efforts.



The cover photo captures the women of Solankiyon ka Gurha village collecting native grass seeds from their village Commons. The collective efforts, led by women, are a critical step towards restoring their degraded Commons by seeding native grasses and reviving local biodiversity.

A decade ago, these Commons were encroached and faced rapid degradation. Now, through concerted community action, 50 acres of Commons are being sustainably governed. The revived Commons provide ample fodder and water, supporting agriculture and livestock rearing. The communities share the surplus native seeds with neighbouring villages at subsidised rates, enabling restoration beyond their own boundaries. This is a shining example of the transformative power of collective action and the pivotal role women play in leading change.

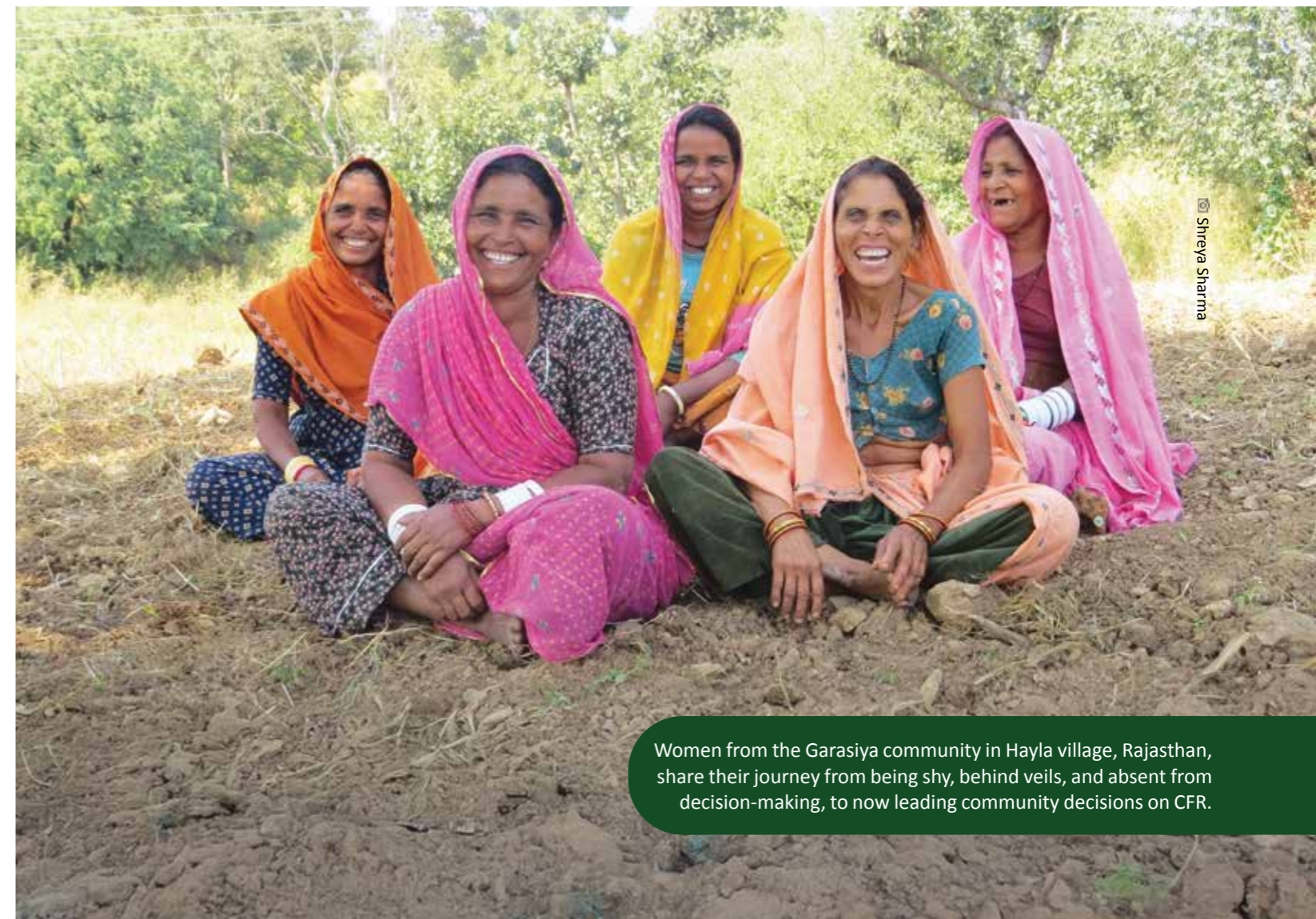
Solankiyon ka Gurha village
Deogarh Block, Rajsamand District, Rajasthan

Photo Credit: Anil Sarsavan

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

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Shreya Sharma

Women from the Garasiya community in Hayla village, Rajasthan, share their journey from being shy, behind veils, and absent from decision-making, to now leading community decisions on CFR.

From the Chairperson's Desk



Dear Friends,

Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is happy to share highlights of its work during the year 2024-25.

Shared natural resources, such as forests and water, along with traditional knowledge and cultural heritage, are vital systems maintained through community stewardship. The Foundation for Ecological Security has redefined the concept of the 'Tragedy of the Commons' as the 'Promise of the Commons', emphasising collective care over exploitation.

In 2024-25, FES advanced this vision through collaboration, capacity building, and technology integration, aligning with theoretical frameworks like Elinor Ostrom's community-based governance and Indian cultural ethos, such as Gandhian Village Swaraj.

The Commons Convening 2024, with partners like UNDP, Common Ground, TISS Mumbai, Landstack, and CoRe, united stakeholders to coordinate on collective impact, with community champions sharing scalable models. The launch of 'Our Commons' publication fostered a shared vocabulary, while the Champions of the Commons films, released on Gandhi Jayanti, showcased transformative initiatives, inspiring broader commitment to sustaining the Commons. Furthermore, the Community Conference 2024 highlighted community voices, perspectives, and lived experiences, creating a dedicated space for communities to interact, share, and learn from each other's experiences to further the commoning of Commons.

The Core Model for Commons Governance, focused on orienting and strengthening understanding of Commons and its community stewardship, is being implemented across 14 states through FES state teams, NGO partners, Prakriti Karyashala and community leadership programmes. It has successfully delivered improved ecological outcomes and greater resource access to people. The Leaders for Commons programme has empowered 200 Elected Women Representatives across six states, thereby strengthening grassroots democracy. The digital platform, India Observatory, addressed technology, knowledge and resource gaps, enabling co-creation of solutions. Internally, FES grew

as an ecosystem organisation, refining systems and leadership to sustain coalition momentum, supported by the resilience and commitment of its team.

FES' work is geared towards enabling community stewardship of 30 million acres of Commons by 2027. Strategic partnerships and government collaborations, including State Project Management Units and engagement with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Forest Rights Act, scaled impact. The Leaders for Commons programme strengthened grassroots democracy, while the digital Commons Platform is paving the way for addressing knowledge gaps, enabling solution co-creation.

The concept of commoning, rooted in mutual support, aligns with FES' efforts and Indian practices like sacred groves, resonating with Satish Kumar's Soil, Soul, and Society trinity. Ostrom's principles counter Hardin's tragedy narrative, with FES' model and initiatives like Mendha-Lekha exemplifying sustainable governance. Historical movements like Gramdan and modern policies like the Forest Rights Act reinforce this potential, enhancing livelihoods and ecological resilience through community-driven efforts.

Challenges like state-market pressures and privatisation persist, but FES' partnerships and platforms counter these by prioritising equity and sustainability. Scaling requires overcoming neoliberal barriers and revitalising traditional practices. As FES enters its 25th year in 2025, its achievements underscore collective action. Sustained coalitions and global alignment with commoning principles can ensure the Commons remain a shared

gift, fostering ecological health, social justice, and harmonious coexistence of Vyakti, Samashti, and Srishti.

We are grateful for our collaborations, which include the lived experiences of communities, the specialised perspectives of government and NGO bodies, the rigour of educational and technology institutions, and the continued support of funding partners. Thank you for your trust in our work.

None of the above would have been possible without the unwavering commitment, resilience, and passion of the FES team. Their ability to work with diverse stakeholders, navigate complex local realities, and continually learn and adapt to take forward our collective efforts, often in challenging contexts, has been the backbone of all that we do.

Ecological health is a global concern; its manifestation and solutions are local. Conserving and restoring it to enhance social and economic well-being is, therefore, a logical response, though a negotiated one and, as our collective efforts have demonstrated, it is doable and achievable. We look forward to your support and collaborative spirit, while we continue our journey towards strengthening community-led governance of the Commons in India.

Thank you.

Warm regards,

Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar

Mission

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

To this end, FES:

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

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

ENSURES the ecological integrity of all efforts by working through various arrangements, as far as possible, with entire landscapes and with all their interrelated communities, on their land and aquatic resources, whether Commons, Public, or Private.

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

COLLABORATES with Panchayat Raj and other democratic village institutions as well as appropriate civil society organisations (CSOs), in their efforts to fulfil social and civic objectives, and to provide technical and financial assistance to them.

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

The Board

Chairperson
Sudarshan Iyengar

Members
Usha Thorat
Nitin Desai
Shailesh Nayak
Gayatri Menon
Mukund Manohar Chitale
Sharachchandra Lele

Representatives of
National Dairy Development Board
(NDDB)

Subrata Singh
(Executive Director)

As on 31st March 2025

A vast tropical dry deciduous forest, dominated by thorny species such as *Acacia* and *Prosopis*, shows clear stratification with sparse vegetation on hill slopes and denser growth in the plains. This underscores the need to plan interventions and conservation measures that respond to variations in terrain and ecology.

FES Overview

Global warming, climate unpredictability and extreme events have served to re-emphasise our connection with the natural world by exposing our vulnerability to events in nature. Environmental issues are global issues, crossing boundaries and today, garner more public, academic, policy and funding attention than they ever did. And yet, the interconnectedness between a decline in natural resources—loss of biodiversity, degradation of air, water and soil—with declining quality of life, is neither easily accepted nor understood.

Positioning ecological security as the foundation for sustainable development, FES works to reframe an understanding of ‘development’, demonstrating how this approach helps build economic resilience and self-sufficiency, subsistence and better coping mechanisms for the rural poor. Intertwining principles of nature

conservation and local self-governance, we work on the below systemic drivers to bring about a multiplier change:

- Biophysical rural infrastructure of soil, water, biomass, and biodiversity to enhance ecological health
- The social infrastructure-collective action; the positive expression of which tilts governance towards more equitable arrangements and resilient livelihood opportunities

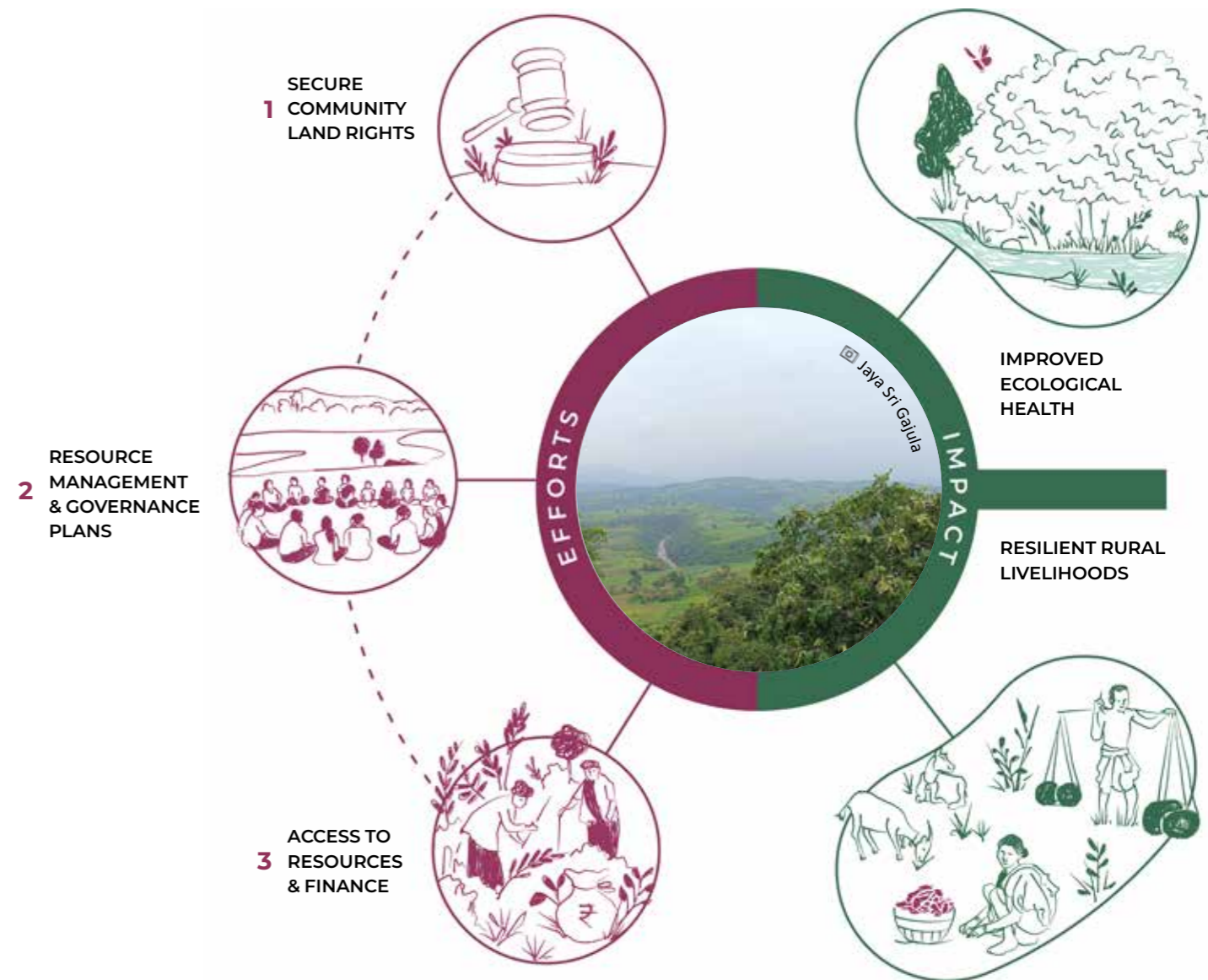
We work directly with village institutions, and with government and non-government partners, to support local communities regenerate their Commons, applying traditional knowledge and wisdom to cost-effectively address complex problems in the management of their common resources.

Communities of Baragarh village, Odisha, having a discussion while undertaking restoration efforts in their forests, which have substantially addressed water scarcity in the village.



Saswathi Tripathy

The Core Model



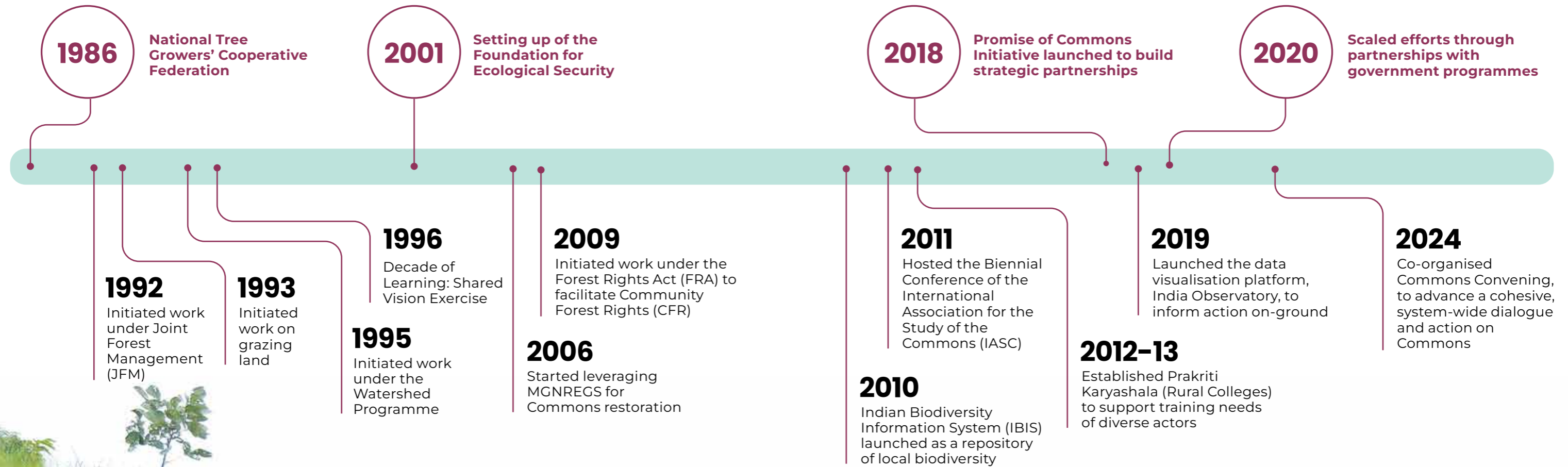
Local contexts are important to factor socio-economic dynamics, motivations and attitudes towards conservation and resource use; obtain a broad view of the landscape and its topography, and the status of natural resources use and sustenance. A decentralised approach helps bring in perspectives of different actors to inform action, and to chart a course towards fair access, use and governance of natural resources.

The Core Model, focuses on the interconnections between:

- 1 Secure community land rights
- 2 Resource management and governance plans
- 3 Access to resources and finance

As a blueprint for action on the ground, the model enables responsive and inclusive local governance of natural resources, resulting in improved ecological health, and resilient rural livelihoods.

The Journey So Far



The origins of FES go back to 1986 when, at a request from the National Wasteland Development Board, a pilot project on Tree Growers' Cooperatives was initiated in five states by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and implemented by the National Tree Growers' Cooperative Federation (NTGCF).

Fifteen years later, the need to work with a variety of institutions and diverse village Commons led to the setting up of a more inclusive organisation with a larger mandate. Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860, the Foundation for Ecological Security was set up in 2001.

Over the years, FES has evolved from directly engaging with rural communities in limited geographies, to working with state governments and like-minded NGO partners across 14 states, to pursue community-led restoration and governance of diverse Commons that include forests, pastures, scrublands, and water bodies.

Women of Rawaliyan Kalan Chak 1 village, Rajasthan, carrying headloads of native seedlings to a hillside for the annual monsoon planting drive.

Cornerstones

FES works towards centre-staging ecological agenda alongside priorities of economic growth, reorienting progress from the perspective of conservation and social justice. To do this, we build on the following three fundamental dimensions:

- Conserving nature, restoring and managing shared resources such as forests, land and water
- Advancing self-governing capacity of rural communities and their institutions to promote collective decision-making, ensuring inclusion of the poor and marginalised
- Improving resilience of rural livelihoods through better governance of natural resources

These are the cornerstones on which FES' work is based, ensuring that nature and people thrive together.

© Shivam Photos and Studios, Gogunda

The soil and moisture conservation (SMC) measures undertaken by communities of Khuman ka Guda village, Rajasthan, are supporting water recharge and the restoration of their common lands with native vegetation.

Ecological Restoration

Collective restoration and governance of 'natural infrastructure'

Local efforts at restoring degraded lands and stressed ecosystems employ a landscape-level perspective, defined by local ecological and socio-economic contexts. Scientific knowledge on recharge of groundwater, assessments of harvesting patterns; usage of spatial technology, complemented by traditional know-how of communities, is applied to draw up conservation plans for improving ecological health, biodiversity, and habitats.

FES also works with communities to promote dialogue on ecological thresholds, to guide self-regulatory action on unsustainable practices such as growing water-intensive crops in dryland areas, and extracting forest produce beyond regenerative capacity.

8.9

lakh saplings planted

334

water-harvesting structures constructed/ repaired

2,785

thousand cubic metres water conserved

18,425

acres of Commons restored through Soil and Moisture Conservation measures

The numbers above are for villages engaged directly by FES in 2024-25



Local Governance

The 'social infrastructure' for governing Commons

FES strengthens collective action by building on the existing social fabric of rural life and traditional forms of local self-governance institutions to facilitate inclusion—especially of marginalised groups such as women and the poor—in decision making, and in crafting self-regulating roles and responsibilities at the village level.

By assisting rural communities secure legal rights to access and manage their Commons, we enable investment in restoring natural resources and evolving rules and regulations to manage and govern them. A supportive government administration enables communities to build trust and momentum, unlock the latent potential of their institutions to take initiative, and tailor mainstream programmes to suit local contexts.

4,88,179

acres under secure tenure

4,49,341 — Forest Commons

38,838 — Non-forest Commons

1,489

villages framed by laws to conserve and manage Commons

398

Gram Panchayat Development Plans supported

The numbers above are for villages engaged directly by FES in 2024-25



© K Murali Krishna



© Nitish Nikan

Enhanced Livelihoods

Commons as the foundation for 'economic infrastructure'

Embedded in the belief that ecological health is fundamental to the viability of forest and farming systems, FES supports communities join the dots between landscape productivity: improved food production, reduced input costs, diversified sources of income, and biodiverse, resilient ecological landscapes.

We promote livelihoods that are ecologically sound, socially just, and economically rewarding. Concerted collective action supports cost-effective management of natural resources, efficient use of public investments, improved leadership, and reduced conflicts, which together leads to improved incomes and enhanced rural resilience.

31,485

households supported for on-farm interventions

9,844

households linked to social security schemes

29.74

crore INR of MGNREGS through investment on Natural Resource Management activities

The numbers above are for villages engaged directly by FES in 2024-25



© PS Madappa



© Anil Sasavan

Approach

FES promotes a systems view of the landscape, highlighting the relationships and reciprocities between Nature and People in ecological, social, and economic domains. We help locate systemic drivers of ecological health—soil, moisture, nutrients, biomass, and biodiversity—within the landscape of forest, pastures and water bodies, and connect these to associated agriculture and livestock production systems.

By strengthening the understanding of the interdependencies between the above, we enable informed decision-making regarding resource use and management, facilitating rejuvenation of ecosystems that support local communities.

Forests in a Landscape

Building a larger constituency for forest conservation

Forests provide critical ecological services such as safe habitat for rich biodiversity, absorption of harmful greenhouse gases, improved nutrient transfer, longer periods of water flows, retention of soil moisture, and better pollination and pest control, all of which lends resilience to rural livelihoods. For forest-dependent communities, forests also help meet essential needs of food, fodder, firewood and timber, while also providing additional incomes through sale of surplus non-timber forest produce.

By connecting forest ecosystems with the larger land-use in a given area, we help build a larger constituency for forest conservation, where the continuum of forests, agriculture, and rural livelihoods are appreciated as a whole.



© Manohar Pawar

Farm and Farming Systems

Guiding choices that impact ecological thresholds

Ecologically healthy Commons are critical to thriving agriculture and livestock production systems. Recognising the value of the interconnections within the larger farming system, which includes natural resources beyond the farm, efforts to build interlinkages between agriculture, livestock and Commons find ready acceptance in rural communities.

We engage with local communities to guide collective choices that factor ecological thresholds and promote resource-conscious farming practices such as diversified cropping, cultivation of fewer water-intensive crops, and rearing of small ruminants like goat and sheep, better suited to local agro-ecological conditions. These practices support improved farm and livestock productivity, reduce input costs and enable judicious use of land and water resources.



© Nitish Nikam

Working with Panchayats

Positioning rural communities as active stewards of their regions

Panchayats and Gram Sabhas are constitutionally recognised for governing shared natural resources. FES works with these institutions to strengthen the agency of rural communities as active stewards of their Commons, thereby improving collective action, democratising the functioning of local institutions, and devising inclusive institutional spaces that safeguard the interests of the poor.

We also work to strengthen collaborative platforms such as local federations and Multi-Actor Platforms consisting of community institutions, government functionaries, academia, and NGOs to jointly deliberate on issues of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.



© Sanjay Dabhi

Tenure over Commons

Strengthening community ownership of Commons

Attitudinal shifts and the effective implementation of legal frameworks are necessary to facilitate secure tenure, which is an essential step towards enabling community stewardship of Commons.

We support communities in mapping common lands, securing tenure, acquiring long-term leases, and drawing up plans for governing their Commons, with a specific focus on women's roles and leadership.



© Government of Jharkhand

Access to Resources

Helping align restoration of Commons with 'Right to Employment'

For creating durable community assets, it is essential to back financial investments with institutional support. FES supports communities to leverage public schemes like MGNREGS to undertake the restoration of Commons, aligning the 'Right to Employment', with 'Right to Resources'. This supports revival of forests, pastures, and water bodies, critical for sustenance of agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration.



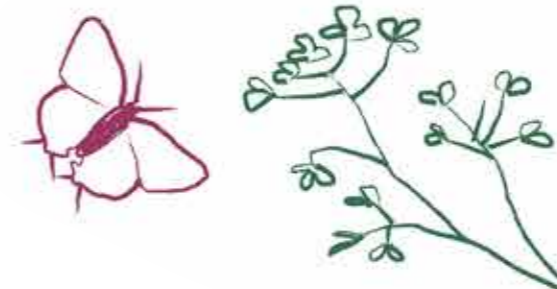
© Sagar Durgam

Institutional Architecture

Strategising for Collaboration and Impact

FES is internally organised in different functional groups that work together to achieve its mission through participative, collaborative efforts, while building a wider constituency for improved governance of Commons in the country.

Our work on ground helps in building a critical mass of action, generate evidence and lessons, and co-design, incubate and innovate context specific alternatives. At a system level, the focus is on supporting capacities in the ecosystems through data systems, training modules, tools and technology, and catalyse collaboration across multiple levels, learning, adapting, and innovating as we move ahead to center-stage community stewardship and nature conservation.



Operations

The Operations team, consisting of state teams and the project support group at the central level, is the primary interface with communities, government departments, frontline functionaries and CSOs, ensuring that FES' engagement on the ground is focused, responsive, and impactful. By fostering connections, we create a network of stakeholders, who are actively involved in shaping and driving change on-ground.

During the year, 7,848 village institutions were engaged, facilitating them to secure tenure over 4,88,179 of Commons, and enabling community-led restoration 18,425 acres. We focused on strengthening the Core Model by deepening engagement with women and other marginalized groups, strengthening dialogue and action around landscape conservation and governance and tapping the potential of citizen science for informed planning and decision-making at the local level.

India Observatory

The India Observatory offers a data-driven approach to understanding and addressing challenges, providing the tools and technology necessary for informed decision-making, and more effective interventions on the ground.

During the year, the team bolstered its efforts to enable wider adoption of tools, technology, and data analytics for community-led nature conservation. The governments in Karnataka, Meghalaya, and Andhra Pradesh integrated CLART into MGNREGS for village-level resource planning, while Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Jharkhand are using dashboards and trackers for MGNREGS and FRA monitoring. The Ground Water Monitoring Tool (GWMT) was used by 140+ NGOs to track and measure water levels of 31,000 open wells across eight states in the last five years.

Prakriti Karyashala

The Prakriti Karyashala, or 'rural colleges', are a knowledge and skills hub for outreach and capacity building, enhancing capacities of community members (the first mile actors), of partners and government functionaries, as well as within FES. This learning space enables the sharing of best practices, fostering a culture of learning, improvement, and adaptation.

During the year, the team enabled capacities of 91,683 community cadre and frontline functionaries to support communities in securing tenure on Commons and restoring their landscapes. We used innovative designs such as Guided Mentoring Sessions and platforms such as ECHO and Participatory Digital Attestation (PDA) to improve the effectiveness and reach of our efforts.

Partnerships

The Partnerships team plays a pivotal role in expanding the Commons network, forging alliances with governments across states and with like-minded organisations, and driving collaboration at multiple levels to improve reach and amplify impact.

During the year, the team worked with 7 state governments to strengthen the institutional architecture around Commons, embed decision-making tools such as CLART and GWMT, and strengthen data systems for effective and efficient programme implementation. We strengthened our partnership with 49 NGOs working on Commons and inter-related themes and 20 networks around climate change, women land rights, freshwater ecosystems, rainfed livestock, landscape restoration and regenerative agriculture.

Strategy, Research & Communications

The Strategy, Research & Communications team aims at creating and shaping organization strategy, building evidence, shaping narratives, developing and executing resource mobilization plans in accordance with our vision and mission.

During the year, the team deepened efforts to strengthen practice-research-policy interface, curating spaces to foster interaction, mutual learning and exchange among different actors, and advancing research and communication that amplified community's voices and stewardship efforts. In collaboration with our knowledge and media partners, we published five peer-reviewed papers and 100+ media articles, strengthening evidence and improving visibility of Commons and community stewardship.

Gender, Diversity and Inclusion

The Gender, Diversity and Inclusion team ensures that FES' engagements put into practice our shared commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity across all aspects of our work and within the organisation.

During the year, the team strengthened dialogue within the organization on issues of diversity and inclusion while also curating communication materials to support teams in facilitating inclusive decision-making on the ground. We co-developed capacity building manuals and piloted initiatives to strengthen the voice, agency and power of women.



The Promise of Commons Initiative

Recognising the transformative potential of Commons, the Promise of Commons, a collaborative initiative, is working towards the long-term goal of reaching 350 million people, and restoring 205 million acres of Commons through community-driven action.

By building on local-level efforts with strategic government and CSO partnerships, the initiative aims to challenge the status quo and shift the 50-year-old metaphor of the 'Tragedy of Commons' to the 'Promise of Commons'.

The collaborative is composed of local communities, governments, NGOs, and policy influencing bodies such as think tanks, research institutions, media, and

concerned individuals. Its work is built on local-level initiatives, fostering support from the government, and enhancing civic engagement to address the interconnected issues of environmental health, and social and economic wellbeing in rural India. Each institution brings its experience and expertise to the collaborative and aligns itself on implementation of the Core Model (page 7).

The Steering Committee

Chair	Prem Das Rai
Nitin Desai	SM Vijayanand
	Saroj Mohapatra
Members	Shailesh Nayak
Arun Maira	Sudarshan Iyengar
Chetna Gala Sinha	Usha Thorat
HariPriya Gundimeda	
Ireena Vittal	Member Secretary
Jagdeesh Rao	Subrata Singh
Jugal Mohapatra	(Executive Director, FES)

As on 31st March 2025

The collaborative works through four strategic action areas that are mutually reinforcing:

- **Catalyse collaborative action** among diverse actors across sectors and scales to centre-stage Commons and community stewardship in practice and policy.
- **Co-create public assets and leverage technology and government programme architecture** to build leadership and capacities at scale in policy and programme implementation, and evidence generation.
- **Generate evidence and influence narratives, policies and programmes** to enhance investments for Commons and centre-stage community stewardship in the larger discourse around livelihoods, conservation and development.
- **Institutionalise Systems for Social Inclusion and Accountability** to build stronger coalitions at state and sub-state level with improved legal awareness, access to data and evidence, transparency, social accountability, and monitoring mechanisms.



Commons contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Commons offer a singular platform to work collectively on issues of poverty alleviation, reducing inequalities and improving ecological health. Commons contribute to the realisation of multiple SDGs and thus, to India's commitments on climate change.

The picturesque banks of the River Irril at Ngamju village, Manipur, are home to rich biodiversity, including many native birds and plants.

Strategic Action Areas

During the year, together with Partners, we deepened our efforts towards realising the vision of the Promise of Commons initiative, enabling a larger constituency of communities to inclusively and collectively secure and govern their Commons. Our collective efforts have helped amplify communities' voices and perspectives in discourses around Commons, local governance, sustainable development goals (SDGs) and climate change. Positive narratives and evidences of the transformative potential of community stewardship of Commons is enabling shared and sustainable futures for both, Nature and People.

Update 2024-25

Catalysing collaborative action

- We curated structured and inclusive spaces for dialogue and co-creation through Commons Convening and Community Conference on Commons, bringing together community members, practitioners, policy makers, media and academicians to celebrate, share, learn and commit to the shared responsibility of

safeguarding and sustaining our Commons, while also inspiring others to join this collective journey.

- We engaged with the government to constitute State Programme Management Units (SPMUs) across seven states. These are evolving as spaces for CSOs to work with Government and different actors to co-create and co-design solutions for enabling community-led restoration and governance of Commons in these states.

- We deepened our engagement with several thematic coalitions around cross-cutting issues such as resilient livelihoods, water governance, gender inclusion, resource system integration, climate action and evidence generation.
- We co-developed data, maps, and analytical tools for MGNREGS, watershed, FRA, and other flagship programmes, fostering collaboration and convergence in planning. Panchayat-wise widgets, maps, and dashboards were developed to support stakeholder needs, enhancing visibility and decision-making.
- In collaboration with CoRe, we co-organized the third cohort of the certification programme on Multi-Actor Platforms (MAP), supporting capacities of 20 development professionals to design and strengthen MAPs and drive collaborative governance for climate action, biodiversity conservation, and improving resilience of rural economies.



- Twenty-two MAPs were facilitated across nine states, bringing together diverse actors at the landscape level to deliberate and act upon local priorities such as grassland restoration in Rajasthan, tribal livelihoods and ravine reclamation in Gujarat, reviving local food systems and restoring pride and identity of communities in Madhya Pradesh, enhancing forest-based livelihoods in Odisha, and conservation of Community Conserved Areas in the north-east.



© Satyam Ojha

A group of women on an exposure visit engage in cross-learning on managing and protecting common lands. Such exchanges are essential for strengthening women's role in decision-making around landscape governance.



Co-creating public assets and leveraging technology and government architecture to build leadership and capacities at scale

- The Commons Platform is evolving as a shared digital infrastructure to support ecosystem actors in natural resource governance. Built on micro-service architecture and designed for scalability and co-creation, it offers interoperable services such as geospatial maps, analytics, datasets, legal repositories, tools, and training resources.
- To advance nature conservation, climate action, and Commons governance, we hosted the Code4Nature Challenge 2024, an initiative that engaged the tech community to co-create digital solutions. The first edition technology solutions included remote sensing and AI to aid biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and carbon footprint reduction.
- We strengthened partnerships with government departments in 10 states to enhance Commons conservation efforts in the state. In the forest-dominated landscapes of Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, we are partnering with the government to support implementation of FRA and enhance

NTPP-based tribal livelihoods. In the semi-arid and pasture-dominated landscapes of Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, we are partnering with the state to support planning and implementation of MGNREGA for pasture and water bodies rejuvenation. In the north-eastern states of Nagaland and Meghalaya, we are partnering with government for improving conservation planning of Community Conserved Areas. We enabled wider adoption of tools, technology, and data analytics for nature conservation across the ecosystem. Karnataka, Meghalaya, and Andhra Pradesh integrated CLART into MGNREGS for village-level resource planning, while Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Jharkhand are using dashboards and trackers for MGNREGS and FRA monitoring. Over 180 Forest Divisions are using the Integrated Forest Management Toolkit (IFMT) / VanApp for preparing working plans under the National Working Plan Code. GEET and CLART have been adopted by 100+ CSOs for accessing entitlement and restoration programmes respectively, and networks like the Alliance for the Conservation of Fresh Water Ecosystems are using GIS, web maps, and dashboards for Conservation Action Plans of the river landscapes.



- At the national level, we engaged with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to strengthen FRA implementation through FRA cells, capacity building, and data portals under the *Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan*. With the Ministry of *Jal Shakti*, we supported *Atal Bhujal Yojna* in seven states through capacity building and tools like experimental games for groundwater governance. Capacity building of 1,650+ field functionaries supported in preparation of community-centric natural resource management plans tailored to local need and context across 13,394 Gram Panchayat, covering all 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh. Over 1.83 lakh interventions have been planned through CLART, marking a significant step towards institutionalising data-driven, participatory planning for ecological restoration at scale.
- We organised Conference of Panchayats in five districts across Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Odisha for Panchayati Raj representatives and frontline functionaries to deepen their understanding of Panchayats' role as custodians of Commons and the legal vesting of public resources in their governance.
- To strengthen voice, agency and power of women, 2000+ *Mahila Sabhas* were facilitated

across different states, creating a safe space for women to connect, express and build confidence while engaging with Panchayat and external actors. We supported capacities of 200 Elected Women Representatives (EWR) through Leaders for Commons Programme across six states — Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. Twelve elected women representatives participated in the 'She Represents' programme.

Generating evidence and influencing narratives, policies and programmes

- To improve the visibility of the significance of Commons and highlight emerging evidences and insights from practice, we co-organized and engaged with several regional, national, international and thematic platforms and forums such as the International Land Coalition, India Land Development Conference, World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) Conference, and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Forum.
- We deepened our engagement with students and young scholars by co-designing and supporting courses on Commons in educational institutions



K Murali Krishna

such as Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhilai; Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad; Central University of Rajasthan; and National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru.

- We jointly published articles and book chapters covering diverse themes and evidences around Commons. The paper titled, 'Valuing ecosystem services provided by common lands in India' was cited in articles of leading media houses such as the Times of India and The Pioneer.



To access works published during the year, scan the QR code

- Launched on World Environment Day, the webinar, 'Growing green: Webinar on revegetation practices', marked the release of training videos, with insights from experts, and community voices from four states, and saw the attendance



of 400+ participants, including community members, government functionaries, and CSOs.

Continued through a five-week expert-led discussion forum, the effort deepened the learning, and enabled timely, field-based application of revegetation practices, strengthening capacity for Commons restoration across multiple geographies. To strengthen narratives in favour of gender-inclusive, community-led governance of Commons, we used different strategies such as campaigns, celebrating community champions, social media engagement, and highlighting stories and articles around the same in mainstream media.

- 100+ articles were published across diverse digital media platforms and print media, spotlighting efforts of communities and other stakeholders in Commons governance, restoration, and related themes.



To access the articles, scan the QR code



Kesotshou Doulo

- The Promise of Commons Fellowship supported in highlighting nine stories around community stewardship of Commons from across India.



To access the articles, scan the QR code

- During the year, a range of audio-visual materials were developed to strengthen community action on the ground and build the narrative around community stewardship of the Commons. These included two videos on Local Circular Economy and Traditional Uncultivated Foods; six films on Minor

Forest Produce, covering regeneration, sustainable harvesting, and processing; and eight videos on the revegetation process. The GEET tutorial was translated into Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, and Gujarati to make it accessible across regions. In addition, ten videos highlighting Commons Community Champions, along with a feature film *Lok ke Log*, screened at the inaugural ceremony of the Commons Convening, were developed. Animation films on Multi-Actor Platforms were developed in English, Hindi, and Odia to support wider adoption. Together, these initiatives helped amplify community voices, showcase inspiring practices, and provide practical knowledge tools to support action across diverse regions.

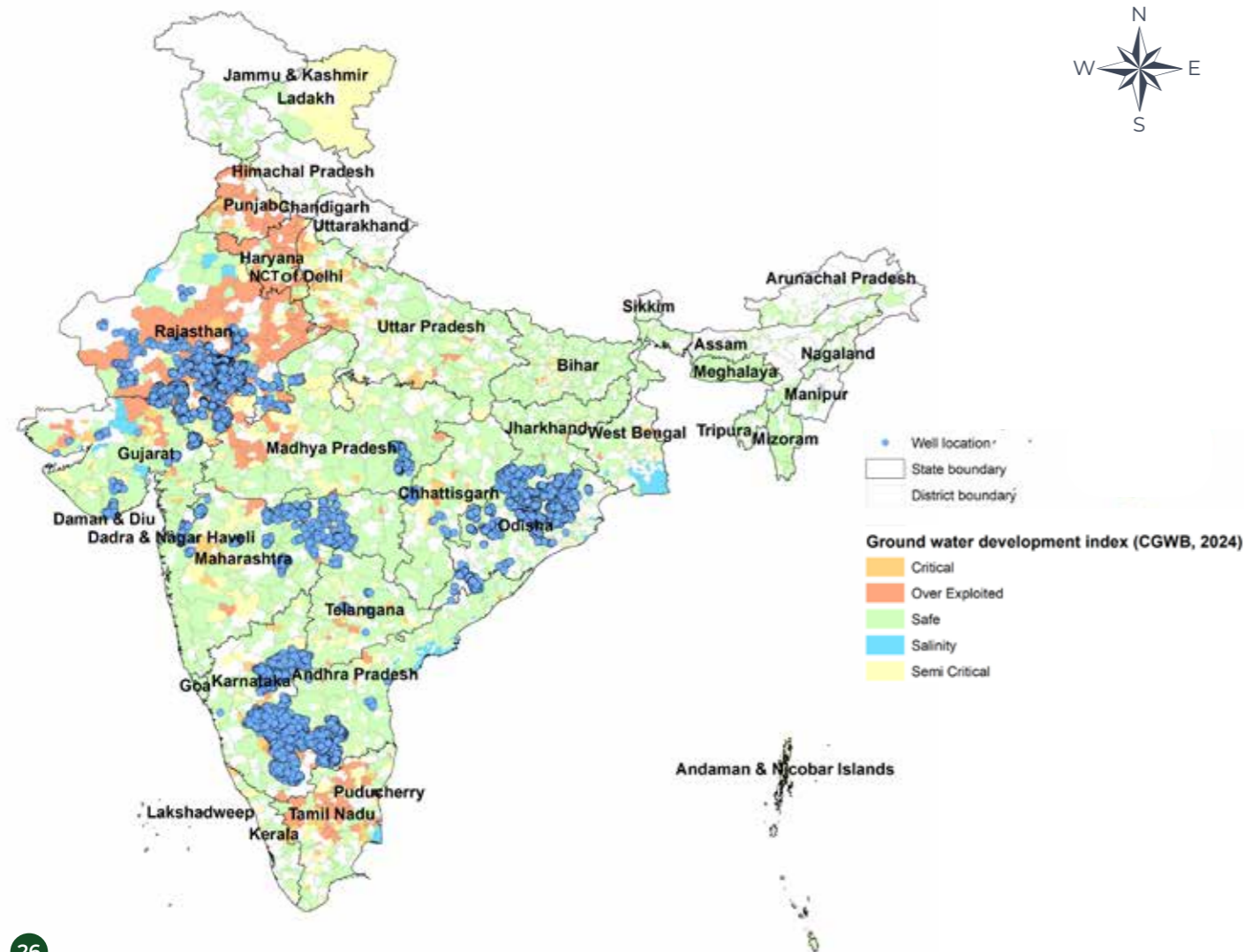


To access these resources, scan the QR code

Insights from Bi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring

To enhance the understanding of groundwater and aid water conservation efforts, the Groundwater Monitoring Tool (GWMT) was launched in 2020. Since then, thousands of people across the country are measuring the water level of wells, twice a year. Over the course of the last five years, the *Napo Jal Bachao Kal* campaign, with the assistance of 140+ NGOs, has aided measurement and tracking of well water levels of 31,000+ open wells across eight states. The water levels recorded pre- and post monsoon, combined with information on local rainfall and geology, are assisting communities understand their aquifers better and prepare informed water budgets for their villages, ensuring water resources are sustainably used.

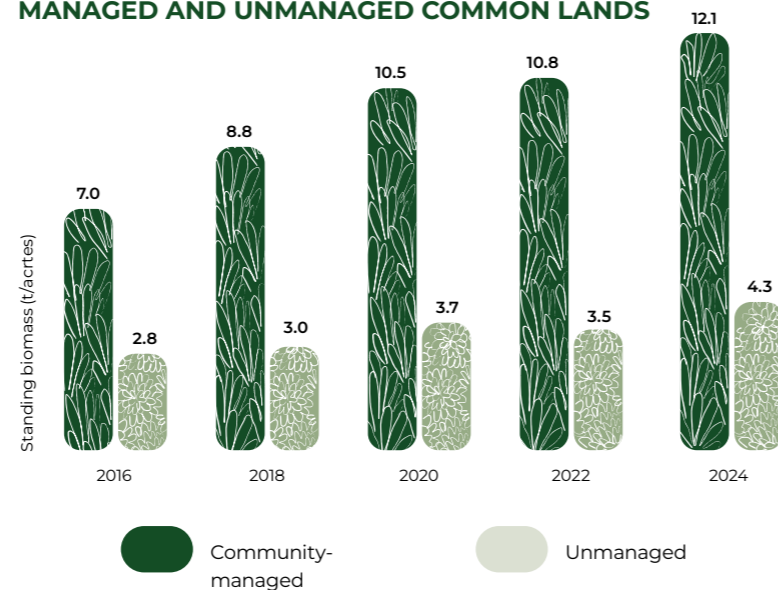
Wells Monitored under Napo Jal Bachao Kal Campaign - 2025



Insights from Annual Socio-Ecological Monitoring

We continued undertaking the Annual Ecological Monitoring across 100 villages spanning 6 States, covering 10,000 acres of common lands. The data shows 55% increase in standing biomass in community-managed common lands.

CHANGES IN BIOMASS (T/ACRE) IN COMMUNITY-MANAGED AND UNMANAGED COMMON LANDS



- To increase attention to Commons in government policies and programmes and influence the design of new initiatives, we worked with partner CSOs, networks and governments at national and state levels, resulting in dedicated attention to FRA in DA-JGUA; enabling orders from the Government of Rajasthan on setting up of Seed Banks; inclusion of pastoralist communities in the 21st Livestock Census; and setting up of SPMUs in seven states to enable collaborative and concerted focus on Commons restoration initiatives.
- We are collaborating with multiple actors to integrate Socio-Ecological Approach Livelihood (SEAL), with emphasis on improving natural farming, sustainable harvesting, and collectivization of farmers for better returns. We are also deepening understanding and shaping pilots to promote alternative economic models and local circular economies grounded in the principles of equity and sustainability.
- We are working with diverse actors to support community stewardship models within the Payment for Ecosystem Services framework and link conservation efforts with sustainable economic opportunities and climate finance through Stewardship Funds.

Institutionalising systems for social inclusion and accountability

- Building on the conversations in the Dialogue Series on Accountability, across 8 thematic areas, that witnessed participation of 120 organizations, we developed a synthesis report which includes the identification of the common minimum principles of accountability. Simultaneously, we continued to deepen conversations around Commons and accountability in various platforms and forums such as the Commons Convening, the India Land Development Conference, the India Public Policy Network Conference, and Justicemakers *Mela*.
- We co-developed a social audit framework for enforcement and facilitating agencies involved in implementing the Forest Rights Act with TISS Mumbai, SAFAR and practitioners from eleven states.
- Building on the ongoing efforts towards digitization of land records, we initiated dialogues on the idea of co-creating a Commons Registry in three states, as an open-access system that provides

insights into the distribution, extent, and value of Commons, improving transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making.

- We co-designed a legal support tool to enhance the effectiveness and reach of community resource persons and first respondents, particularly in accessing enviro-legal data. The prototype is set to undergo refinement and testing on the ground.
- We worked with the state governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to co-develop and integrate digital dashboards and widgets in programme design. This involved integration of IT and GIS based planning using CLART for land and water conservation under the MGNREGS. The portal allows for remote vetting and approval of plans developed through CLART, streamlining the sanctioning process and enabling midcourse corrections, as needed.
- To strengthen the voice and agency of communities and Panchayats in ensuring effective delivery of programmes such as GPDP, we supported their capacities in accessing and using data from portals such as e-Gram Swaraj so that they can track progress and meaningfully engage with Block officials in case of discrepancies.
- We advanced work on improving tenurial securing by proposing the need for enabling social audit for common land by the Gram Panchayat, to the Joint Task Force of the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India. The Joint Task Force has been mandated for reviewing the CAG's Social Audit Standards of 2016 and expanding it to other relevant programmes.



Center-staging Community Stewardship of Commons

Community stewardship, rooted in generational wisdom, is essential for ensuring the sustainable governance of Commons. Nested in democratic decision-making and inclusion, this approach builds on the deep connections that communities have with their natural environments, and exemplifies the power of collective action and commoning for the well-being of all.

Continuing our efforts over the past year, we have launched and deepened several initiatives to highlight the transformative potential of community-led efforts in sustaining Commons. These initiatives are aimed at strengthening community stewardship, enhancing knowledge exchange among diverse actors, and expanding opportunities for engagement with related issues.

The Gram Sabha of Paraja Sirimunda, Odisha, discussing restoration efforts and next steps to claim CFR over the 1,200 acres of forests they collectively protect and govern.

Mohan Jani

Commons Convening 2024



FES, along with Common Ground, Landstack, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) India, with Collaborating for Resilience (CoRe) as the design partner, co-hosted the Commons Convening 2024. Held at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), New Delhi, from August 27th to 29th, 2024, the Commons Convening brought together diverse stakeholders such as community leaders, civil society organisations, researchers, and policymakers, to celebrate the collective efforts of communities in stewarding the Commons.

With over 500 participants from 20+ Indian states, the Convening explored the crucial role of Commons, and built a shared understanding and alignment around Commons to achieve collective impact. The convening helped highlight Commons as a platform for enabling ecological restoration, resilient livelihoods, and social inclusion. The breadth of topics discussed, from community stewardship to climate adaptation, was a testament to the diverse expertise and perspectives brought to the table. Some of the actionable commitments and key pathways that emerged for future action are outlined below:

- **Community Engagement:** Empower grassroots movements by engaging with women, youth, farmers, and key groups like pastoralists to elevate the role of Commons.
- **Collaborations and Partnerships:** Strengthen alliances through organisational partnerships, networks, and regional convenings to achieve shared objectives.
- **Enabling Policies:** Advocate for stronger legal protections and clearer definitions of Commons in national and state policies to safeguard them for the future.
- **Research and Innovation:** Promote interdisciplinary research and develop innovative tools and practices to enhance resource management and address emerging challenges.
- **Public Awareness:** Harness the power of media to elevate the discourse around Commons by creating compelling narratives and using digital platforms to reach broader audiences.



To know more, please scan the QR code

Our Commons Publication



The inaugural issue of 'Our Commons' publication was launched at the Commons Convening 2024 by community champions, whose initiatives from across the country are featured in this first edition.

The theme for this edition was 'Celebrating Commoning and Community Stewardship', where different types and forms of Commons are discussed alongside the

practices of commoning. The issue elaborates on the status of common lands, its interlinkages with priority areas such as climate action and farming systems, and the various ways in which communities have asserted their rights over these lands in India. The final chapter urges us to reimagine our collective futures, by presenting a potential trajectory to restore Commons and revitalise governance systems around them.

The publication aims to build a shared vocabulary around Commons, improve public understanding on issues related to its current status and significance, the pressures behind its shifting nature, and the associated impacts. It highlights the enduring spirit of commoning and strengthens a sense of collective responsibility, sustainability, and shared well-being for the benefit of present and future generations. The objective of the publication is to serve as a key resource for knowledge sharing around community governance of Commons.



To read the publication, please scan the QR code

Community Conference 2024

The third edition of the Community Conference was co-organised during the World Commons Week 2024. It featured 116 community presentations across 11 themes from Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, and Spain and from 15 states and two Union Territories of India. The themes ranged from water and land Commons' governance, biodiversity, food security, gender, culture, and struggles of commoning.

Across the three days, more than 750 participants engaged with the stories being shared by community champions, actively interacting with them and with each other, transforming this platform into a vibrant, living platform, engaging a milieu of audiences. The 178 local, on-ground screenings, facilitated across

11 states, enabled an additional 7,000+ people (including 3,300+ women and 2,500+ youth) to participate in the conference. The conversations enriched the discussion around building resilience in the face of climate change, enhancing community rights over Commons, and scaling sustainable practices through cross-learning.

This annual virtual conference, initiated in 2022, is evolving into a key space for learning and knowledge-sharing among communities, experts, academics, and practitioners, who benefit from the wealth of diverse experiences, fostering collective action for the Commons.



To know more, please scan the QR code

Champions of Commons



The short film series, 'Champions of Commons—Celebrating Community Stewardship', highlighting the transformative power of community-led initiatives in restoring Commons and furthering commoning across India, was premiered on 2nd October 2024, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

The series covers the journey of ten Commons Champions from across India, including a young community leader bridging the generational divide, uniting people to better manage their forests; a seed-saving farmer championing self-reliance; a passionate leader enabling their community to rejuvenate their water resources and pastures; and an enterprising woman who cycled from village to village, empowering women to upskill themselves, among others.

The series offers replicable examples of community stewardship of shared resources like forests, pastures, water bodies, and local cultures and traditions.



To watch the films, please scan the QR code



Collaborative Reach

Our collaborative efforts continue to deepen the action on-ground, while also shaping system-wide change through thought leadership to drive impact at scale. The improved ecological health of Commons and enhanced resilience of rural livelihoods is the direct result of the shared collective vision of all stakeholders for advancing the responsive and inclusive local governance of our natural resources.

Our experience, backed by evidence from diverse socio-economic and ecological settings, reinforces that coordinated efforts, grounded in local realities and guided by local wisdom, can improve both ecological and socio-economic wellbeing, paving the way for a more resilient and equitable future for all.

Reach in Year 2024-25

	7,848 Village Institutions Strengthened	6.05 Million Lives Impacted	2.75 Million Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	406	0.23	0.14
Through NGO Partnerships	3,507	1.20	0.96
Through Government Partnerships	3,935	4.62	1.65

As on 31 March 2025

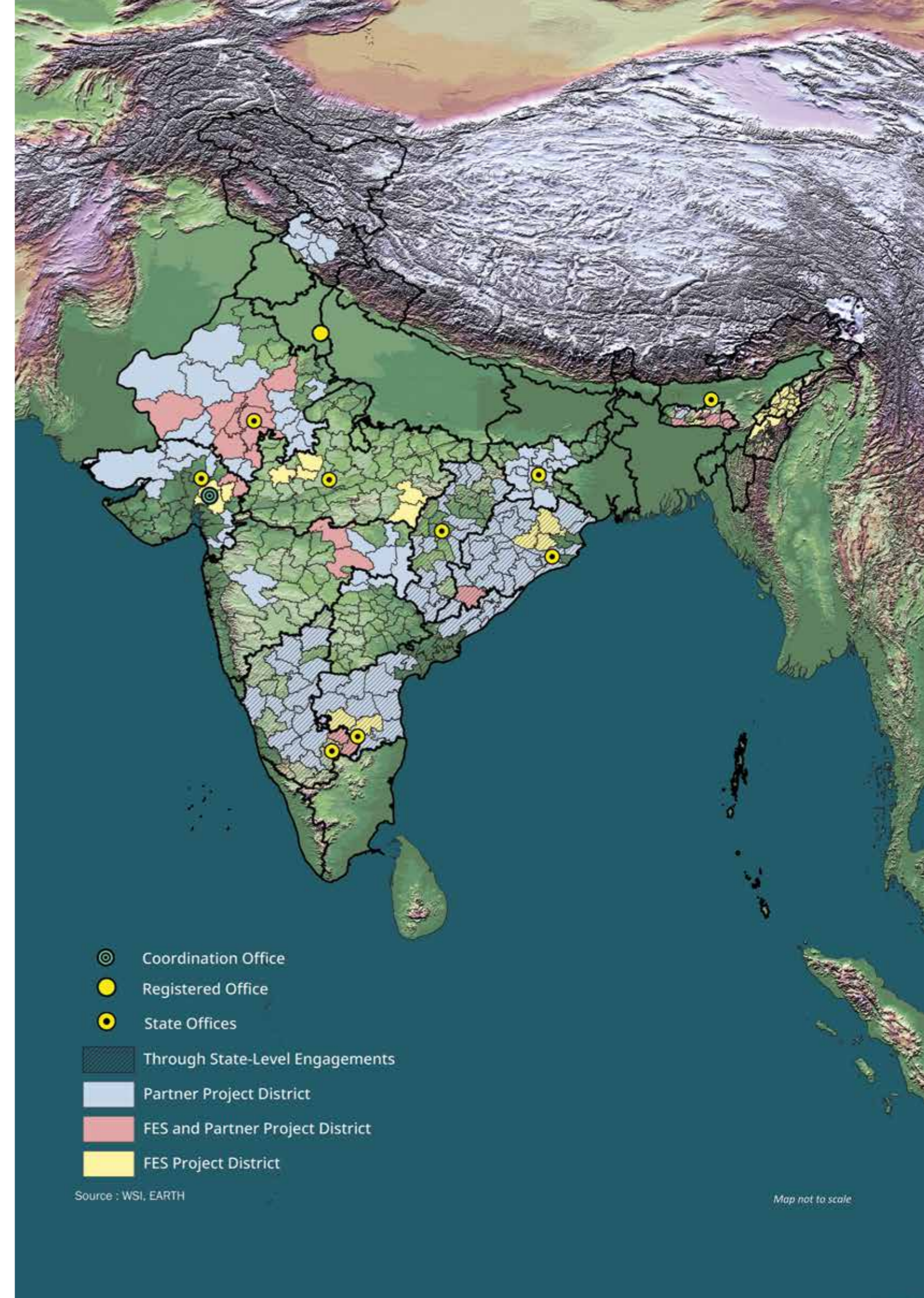
Cumulative Reach

	64,976 Village Institutions Strengthened	40.38 Million Lives Impacted	17.66 Million Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	9,604	6.28	2.73
Through NGO Partnerships	35,280	16.89	10.55
Through Government Partnerships	20,092	17.20	4.38

Cumulative since 1986



The Collaborative reach, along with the 12 states covered in the report, also includes past efforts in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Telangana. The reach includes 9,604 villages through FES' direct interventions and 55,372 villages through partnerships with 100+ NGOs and state government departments. The villages are at different levels in the implementation of the Core Model, guided by the local context, priorities, and opportunities.



- Coordination Office
- Registered Office
- State Offices
- Through State-Level Engagements
- Partner Project District
- FES and Partner Project District
- FES Project District

Source : WSI, EARTH

Map not to scale

2024-25 in Numbers

Chiranjit Guha



14

ongoing MoUs with various government departments across 9 states

Raghuram Muthai



13,887
acres regenerated

K. Murali Krishna



2,000+
Mahila Sabhas facilitated

Satyam Ojha



2,087

women in leadership roles in local governance institutions

Sunita Pangri



210

organisations used technology tools developed by India Observatory

Anil Sarsawan



91,683

people trained by Prakriti Karyashala

Ashish Kumawat



7,000+

attendees in Community Conference 2024

Initiatives across States

Rooted in strong and lasting partnerships with diverse organisations, and through active support from governments at the district, state, and national levels, the efforts have enabled informed and widespread action for nature conservation, strengthening local self-governance, and enhancing the resilience of rural livelihoods across states. During the year, we continued our efforts towards connecting practice, research, and policy and strengthening structured spaces for dialogue and co-creation to accelerate momentum on the ground.



Shevantrao Gaikwad

Andhra Pradesh

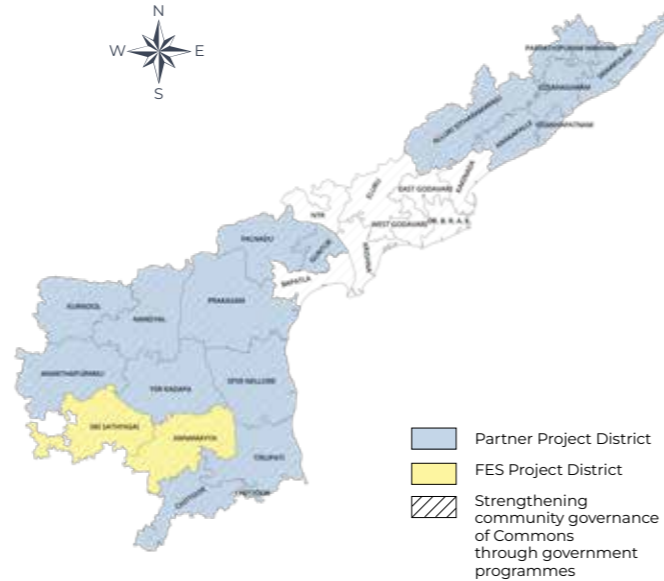
FES works in areas in the state that face severe droughts and erratic monsoons. Dry spells, water-intensive crops, depleting groundwater, and rising cultivation costs make farming unsustainable, driving distress migration.

This year, we emphasised the need for community stewardship of Commons with community members, NGO representatives, government functionaries and Panchayat leaders through events and campaigns. *Papagni Pilupu* was one such event that brought together 4,500 diverse stakeholders to celebrate the role of collective action in restoring the Papagni catchment. The event provided space for deliberating on issues concerning governance, restoration, livelihoods, and biodiversity and highlighted the importance of an integrated approach with a Commons-livestock-agriculture-water connect.

As part of a coalition of 18 NGOs and government departments, we supported the Millet Mela. The event, which was attended by 3,000 community members, highlighted the connections between Commons, climate change and agriculture.

Integration of CLART in MGNREGS planning supported government functionaries and communities in the identification of 1,81,000 works. FES served on various state- and district-level committees, such as the prevention of forest fire, forest protection and wetland conservation, and contributed to their improved management. Forty-four Mandal Level Commons Development Forums, strengthened the work of VIs on community governance on Commons.

Operations initiated in 1987 through the NTGCF; taken forward through FES from 2001.



FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Southern Plateau and Hills Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Papagni, Pennar, Chitravati, Tungabhadra

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Moist Deciduous, Tropical Dry Deciduous, Tropical Thorn, and Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 120-150 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Sloth Bear, Long-billed Vulture, Indian Skimmer, Greater Spotted Eagle, Yellow-throated Bulbul, Star Tortoise

THREATENED FLORA: *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Andrographis beddomei*, *Boswellia ovalifoliolata*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

	7,914 Village Institutions Strengthened	5,341 Thousand People Impacted	2,080 Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	853	245	277
Through NGO Partnerships	3,804	3,396	1,478
Through Government Partnerships	3,257	1,700	325

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

Awakening People's Action for Rural Development (APARD), Society for National Integration through Rural Development (SNIRD and Rainforest Alliance (RA)

MOUs with

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, to strengthen community governance of Commons, for five years

UPDATE 2024-25

- **200 VIs** engaged to bring **42,503 acres of Commons** under community governance
- **60 VIs** got **1,047 acres of Commons** entered into the POB
- Strengthened capacities of **2,277 first mile functionaries** of MGNREGS, for community-centric, scientific planning, resulting in the identification of **1,81,000 interventions**
- SMC measures applied to **2,373 acres of Commons**; **1,310 acres of Commons** revegetated; **1,86,517 native species** saplings planted
- **26 tanks** restored and excavated silt applied to **895 acres of farmlands**, improving soil fertility. **32 cattle ponds** constructed supporting **47,800+ livestock**, benefiting **821 households**
- **20 traditional, water-harvesting structures** renovated irrigation to **789 acres** belonging to **547 farmers**
- **60 women sarpanchs** taken through capacity development exercises under the Leaders for Commons Initiative. **1,135 women** groomed for leadership roles
- **3,298 households** supported for on- and off-farm livelihood interventions
- **3 MAPs** supported across **3 blocks; 48 mandal federations** strengthened



“Efforts towards restoring our Commons have brought back greenery and recharged groundwater. It has also brought back the native broom grass (Aristida setacea), which was vanishing from our Commons. This has helped in our traditional livelihood of broom making. It fetches me INR 5,000/- in a month. We now understand that restoring our forests is necessary for improving our lives as well.”

BOCHU ADEMMA

Member, Thimmayapalem Ummadi Vanarula Abhivridhi Samithi (UVAS)

Thimmayapalem Village, Sri Potti Sriramulu (SPSR) Nellore District



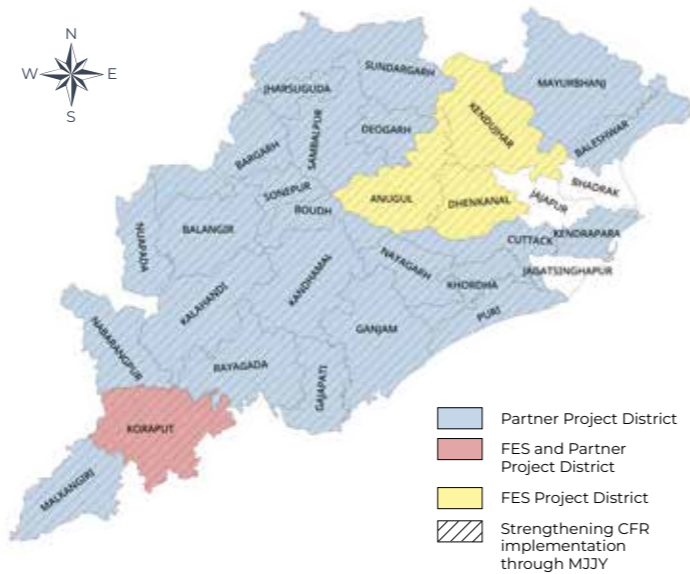
Odisha

Odisha has a wealth of natural resources such as forests, water, minerals, a long coastline, and is severely prone to natural calamities. The state has witnessed acute water scarcity and growing urban-rural economic disparity over the decades.

2024-25 marked deepening engagements with government and non-government actors to advance work on secure tenure and improved governance of forest Commons using the provisions of FRA, 2006 and the programme architecture of the *Mo Jungle Jami Yojana* (MJJY).

We worked with village communities and CSOs for improving the ecological signature through initiatives such as village ecological registers, citizen science, water security plans and vegetation assessment exercises across 16 districts. We continued our engagements on sustainable agriculture and improved water governance through the adoption of tools, technologies and a package of best practices. We also worked with State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD and PR) on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) preparation, wherein, Clean and Green Village component was incorporated in the plans of 136 Gram Panchayats.

Operations initiated in 1987 through the NTGCF; taken forward through FES from 2001.



Map not to scale

FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Eastern Plateau and Hills Region, East Coast Plains and Hills Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Mahanadi, Brahmini, Kolab

FOREST TYPES: Moist Tropical Forests, Dry Tropical Forests, Montane Subtropical Forests

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 180-210 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Asian Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Black-capped Kingfisher, Indian Skimmer, Sambhar, Mugger Crocodiles, Gharial

THREATENED FLORA: *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Cleistanthus collinus*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Dioscorea hamiltonii*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Albizia thompsonii*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

	23,707 Village Institutions Strengthened	10,833 Thousand People Impacted	5,132 Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	3,054	1,987	898
Through NGO Partnerships	19,901	8,319	4,234
Through Government Partnerships	752	527	

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

Centre for Regional Education, Forest and Tourism Development Agency (CREFTDA); District Forestry Forum, Bolangir; District Forestry Forum, Boudh; Gram Bharati; Institute of Social Studies (ISS); Institute of Women's Development; International Noble Work Development and Investigation Association (INDIA); Jana Kalyan Sanstha, Lok Vikas Parishad; Manav Adhikar Seva Samiti (MASS); Nayagarh Jungle Surakshya Mahasangha; Nirman; Peoples' Organisation for Rural

Education and Vocational Action, Research, Training, Health, Agriculture and Nature (POREVARTHAN); Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC); Samonaya Trust; Seba Jagat; Self Employed Worker's Association Kendra (SEWAK); Seva Niketan; Shakti Organisation; Society for Promoting Rural Education and Development (SPREAD); Youth for Action & Research (YAR)

UPDATE 2024-25

- **2,775 VIs** supported to bring **4,13,493 acres of Commons** under community governance
- Facilitated submission of **2,764 CFR claims** to bring **3,76,000 acres of forests** under community governance
- **1,154 acres of Commons** treated with SMC measures
- **3,283 acres of Commons** revegetated, and **1,96,340 saplings** of native species planted
- **136 Panchayats** supported in GPDP preparation
- **3,366 women leaders** actively engaged in local governance
- Crop Water Budgeting exercises and Water Games facilitated across **2,002 villages**
- **7,314 households** supported for on- and off-farm livelihood interventions
- **1,517 households** enabled to access social security schemes
- **18 MAPs** supported across **27 blocks**
- **67,558 acres of Commons mapped** using the Common Land Mapping (CLM) tool



Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

MOUs with

SCs and STs Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) on effective implementation of FRA; Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture (OIIPCRA) for the capacity-building of women farmers and facilitating NGOs; State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD and PR) for water-sufficient and climate-resilient Gram Panchayats

Thenga
March 1999



Swapna Sarangi

Thenga
March 2024



Dawa Pemba Shepa

“Over the past four years, the women in our village have led collective efforts to protect and restore our forests. A major part of this involves collecting seeds, making and dispersing seed balls and planting saplings of native species. This has helped bring greenery back to barren areas. We selected species like Mango, Jackfruit, Jamkoli, Charkoli, and others to revive the tree varieties that can also support our livelihood.”

BIRMA JANI

Member, Gupteswar Producer Group

Jhimkiguda Village, Koraput District



Krutika Priyadarshini Mohanty

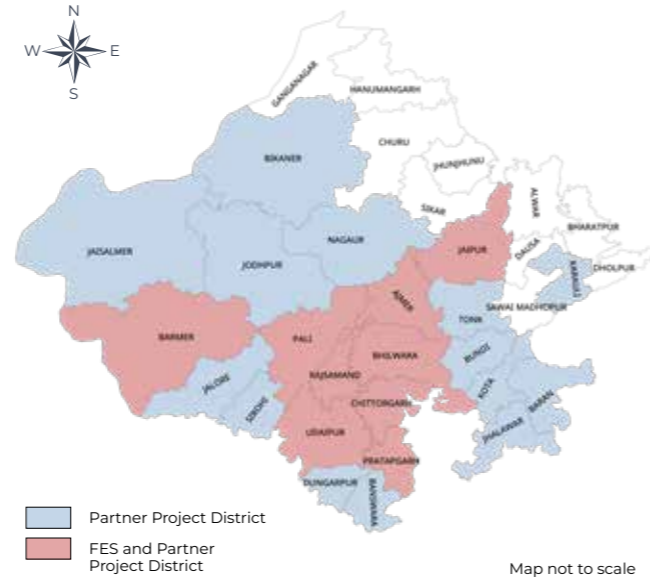
Rajasthan

In Rajasthan, the regions we work in include grasslands, forests, orans, and desert ecosystems, supporting diverse communities. The rural communities' livelihood depends primarily on agriculture and livestock rearing, with Commons providing essential resources, like fodder, fuel, and water.

The 2024-25 focus was eco-restoration and pastureland development at scale through state-level dialogues. This led to an MOU with the Director, Watershed Development and Soil Conservation Department, Government of Rajasthan for the formation of the Vanaspati Beej Bank as a repository of native seed varieties. A State Project Monitoring Unit (SPMU), was also formed to further strengthen the initiative. A draft MoU was prepared in partnership with Seva Mandir and the Tribal Area Development Department (TADD), along with efforts to set up an SPMU to strengthen CFR implementation across the State. We continued building the leadership capacities of elected women representatives through the Leaders for Commons initiative.

To strengthen the narrative around community stewardship of Commons, we partnered with academic institutions for dialogues and documentation. On-ground engagements were deepened through campaigns like the *Shamlaat Abhiyan* and *Hariyalo Rajasthan*, using enabling orders, yatras, and celebrations. FES collaborated with the Forest Department for the preparation of Conservation Action Plans in Udaipur.

Operations initiated in 1987 through the NTGCF; taken forward through FES from 2001.



FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Western Dry Region, Central Plateau Region and Trans-Gangetic Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Banas, Chambal, Mahi, Luni

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Dry Deciduous and Tropical Thorn Forests

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 90-120 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Blackbuck, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Indian Rock Python, Saras Crane, Indian Wolf, Striped Hyena, Painted Francolin, Great Indian Bustard

THREATENED FLORA: *Tribulus rajasthanensis*, *Commiphora wightii*, *Chlorophytum borivilianum*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

	12,688 Village Institutions Strengthened	12,188 Thousand People Impacted	2,749 Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	2,994	2,542	852
Through NGO Partnerships	1,974	2,557	478
Through Government Partnerships	7,720	7,089	1,419

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

Gram Vikas Nav Yuvak Mandal (GVNML), Laporiya Jaipur; Jan Chetna Sansthan, Sirohi; Prakriti Foundation, Pratapgarh; Prayatna Samiti, Udaipur; Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action (SRIJAN); UNNATI,

Barmer; PRADAN, Sirohi; KRAPAVIS, Alwar; Samajik Prerna evam Gramin Vikas Sansthan (SPGVS), Tonk; Urmul Khejdi Sansthan, Nagaur

UPDATE 2024-25

- **1,388 VIs** engaged to bring **1,61,784 acres of Commons** under community governance
- Facilitated **22 CFR claims** to bring **6,753 acres of forests** under community governance
- **9,466 acres of Commons** treated with appropriate SMC measures
- **7,567 acres of Commons** regenerated; **2,42,863 saplings** were planted
- **5,204 households** supported for on-farm livelihood interventions
- **777 households** enabled access to various social security schemes
- **150 Gram Panchayats** supported for strengthening GPDP processes
- **25 women leaders** engaged in strengthening local democratic processes
- Crop Water Budgeting exercises and Water Games facilitated across **197 villages**, encouraging farmers to plan judicious water use
- **5 MAPs** supported across 4 blocks
- **600 quintals** of local grass seeds collected by women
- Preparation of **30 VERs** facilitated to map historical trends for ecological planning
- Engaged with South Rajasthan Coalition to strengthen the water security planning process and GPDP in **50 Gram Panchayats**



Kacholia
February 2003



Sunil Kumar

Kacholia
February 2024



Sunil Kumar

“Six years ago, our charagah was dry and barren, with grasses that our livestock would not eat. Through community efforts, we undertook soil and water conservation and formulated rules for grazing. Slowly, native grasses like Karad, Buhari, and Sevan returned. Their seeds now spread naturally. This year, we had abundant fodder, which we even shared with nearby villages. Our pastures are healthier and so are our livestock.”

GAUTAMLALJI MEENA

VI Member, Hanuman Gram Vikas Samiti

Belari Village, Pratapgarh District



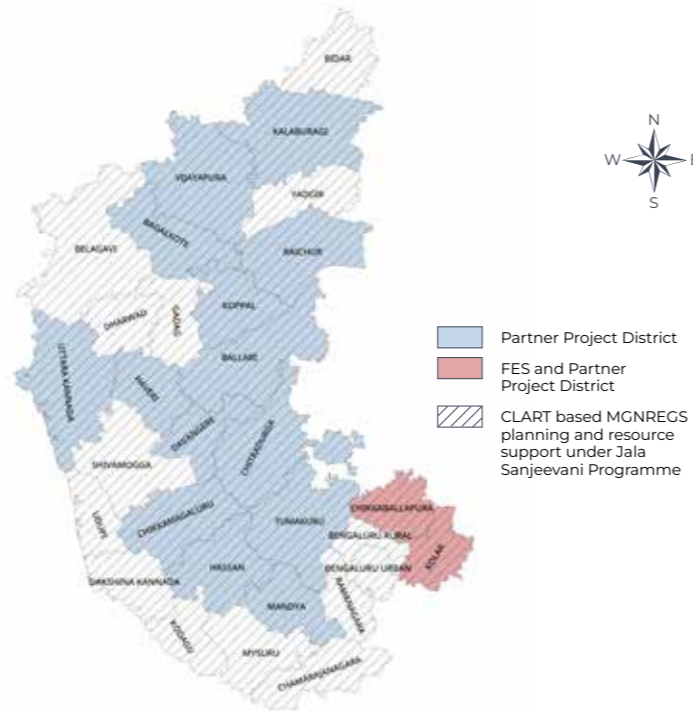
Pankaj Singh Dangri

Karnataka

Forests and pastures in Karnataka are a mix of dry-deciduous, tropical thorn, and scrub, infested with invasive *Lantana camara*, and face widespread degradation. Groundwater extraction, driven by the large-scale cultivation of water-intensive crops, has become a cause for concern in recent times.

We continued supporting the formation and strengthening of *Grama Parisara Abhivruddhi Mattu Nirvahana Samithis* (GPANs). This expanded our reach from 11 to 21 districts, enabling community-led planning and implementation of SMC activities. Supported by IUCN, we collaborated with RA and other CSOs to support landscape management plans for enabling biodiversity conservation and improved availability of NTFPs. Representatives of Farmers' Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) attended workshops on local landscape governance. We supported a consortium of 50 NGOs (*Gram Swaraj Abhiyan—GSA*) to capacitate 13,784 *Kayaka Bandhu* (MGNREGS Mates) from 50 blocks across 20 districts. This led to the identification of 350 Master Trainers who are supporting the capacity building efforts in the state. FES was awarded by the RDPR Department, Government of Karnataka, for the best technical support in implementing the *Jala Sanjeevini* Programme, and the capacity building of MGNREGS functionaries, for the work in 2023-24.

Operations initiated in 1987 through the NTGCF; taken forward through FES from 2001.



FACT FILE

Map not to scale

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Southern Plateau and Hills Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Krishna, Kaveri, North Pennar, South Pennar, Palar

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Dry Deciduous, Tropical Thorn, Scrub

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 150-180 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Yellow-throated Bulbul, Star Tortoise, Indian Black Turtle, Red Sand Boa, Indian Golden Gecko, Kolar Leaf-nosed Bat, Crimson Rose Butterfly

THREATENED FLORA: *Commiphora wightii*, *Shorea roxburghii*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Wrightia tinctoria*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

	7,460 Village Institutions Strengthened	6,514 Thousand People Impacted	1,096 Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	709	344	157
Through NGO Partnerships	703	674	319
Through Government Partnerships	6,048	5,495	620

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Karnataka; Arghyam; SOCION; Prarambha; Spoorthy; Vikasana; Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA), Hyderabad; India Natural Resource Economics and Management (INREM); Water, Environment, Land and Livelihoods (WELL) Labs and Rainforest Alliance (RA)

MOUs with

Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, (as a member of GSA), to build capacities of *Kayaka Bandhus* (Mates) working under the MGNREGS.

UPDATE 2024-25

- **1,200 VIs** engaged, bringing **1,25,134 acres of Commons** under community governance; sub plans for **1,750 Gomala** supported across eight districts
- Facilitated entry of **38,838 acres of Commons** in **581 villages** across **13 districts** into the Panchayat Asset Register
- **1,122 acres of Commons** treated with SMC measures; **243 acres of Commons** revegetated with **1,10,640 saplings** of different native species
- **1,250 women leaders** capacitated to actively engage in local governance
- **3,578 functionaries of MGNREGS** trained on watershed approaches to support landscape restoration across Commons
- **1 MAP** with **4 federations** was supported in 1 block in the state
- **3,188 acres of Commons** were mapped using the CLM tool
- **43 surface water harvesting structures** were renovated creating a water storage potential of **943 TCM**
- Crop Water Budgeting exercises and Water Games facilitated across **110 villages**
- **1,603 households** supported with on- and off-farm livelihood interventions

Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*)



Sajjupalli August 2004



Dr. Subba Rao

Sajjupalli August 2024



Anke Narasimhulu

“Forest fires damaged our grasslands, eroding soil and destroying native flora, including fodder, and Non-Timber Forest Produce. We, collectively, organised campaigns to control forest fires, and also restored our Commons. Now, forest fires have reduced significantly and our Gomala is flourishing again with increased availability of water, medicinal herbs, fruits like sitaphal, and native fodder species.”

M. VENKATESHAPPA

President, Marsanapalli Grama Abhivruddhi Sangha

Marasanapalli Village, Bagepalli District

Anke Narasimhulu



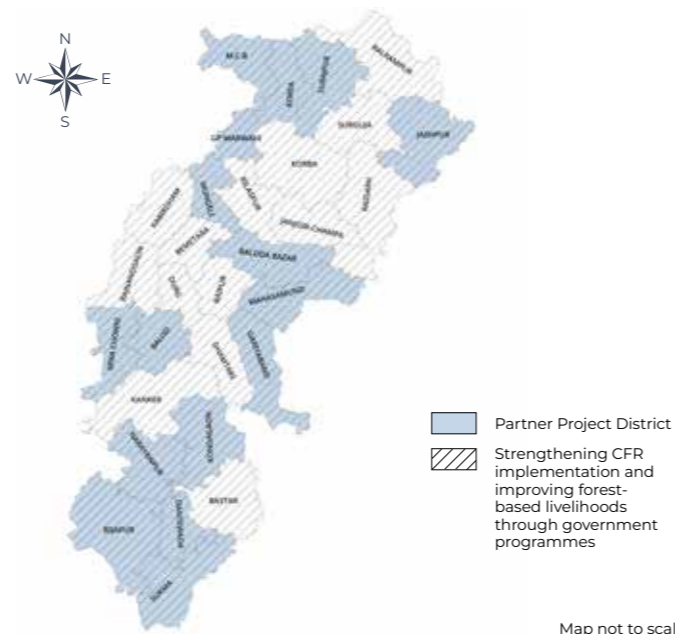
Chhattisgarh

Among India's richest biodiversity habitats, Chhattisgarh forests, covering 40% of the state's geographical area, accounts for 12% of India's forests. Tribals and other traditional forest dwellers, constituting 32% of the population, at 7.4 million, depend on these forests for their livelihoods.

This year, we engaged with multiple government and academic institutions, enabling collaborations, and creating platforms for stakeholders to support Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR), and drawing and implementing plans for management and conservation of forest landscapes in the state. We worked to centre-stage the role and traditional knowledge of communities in effective governance of natural resources, with emphasis on gender equity.

A pool of resource persons, majorly women, was capacitated to influence household and community-level practices for sustainable harvesting of NTFP. Creation of MAPs at the district level, and partnerships with grassroots organisations, has facilitated scaling of these capacities to communities across the state, further enabling environmental stewardship and long-term income security for the communities. We collaborated with *Nandan Van Jungle Safari* to engage 400 youth to raise awareness of urban audiences on forest Commons conservation and associated livelihoods.

Operations initiated in 2020-21.



FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Eastern Plateau and Hills Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Mahanadi, Shivrathi, Indravati

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Moist Deciduous and Tropical Dry Deciduous forests

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 150-180 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Indian Vulture, White-rumped Vulture, Alexandrine Parakeet, Woolly-necked Stork, Banded Krait, Asian Elephant, Indian Courser

THREATENED FLORA: *Butea monosperma var. lutea*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Berberis asiatica*, *Alstonia venenata*, *Clerodendrum serratum*, *Gloriosa superba*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

	1,973 Village Institutions Strengthened	1,948 Thousand People Impacted	1,944 Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through NGO Partnerships	61	31	95
Through Government Partnerships	1,912	1,917	1,849

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

UNDP, Samarthan, Khoj Evam Jan Jagriti Samiti

MOUs with

Tribal Department to strengthen the post-Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) management process; the Forest Department, to strengthen community-led conservation efforts and climate action; Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Federation for building the capacities of SHGs and women leaders to create sustainable economic opportunities for forest-dependent families; IIT Bhubaneswar to promote knowledge exchange and technical collaboration on Commons and culture

UPDATE 2024-25

- Prakriti Karyashala supported **1,260 VIs** to improve governance of **12,00,878 acres of Commons** by facilitating formation of Community Forest Resource Management Committees (CFRMCs)
- Prakriti Karyashala facilitated the submission of **601 CFRR claims** to bring **4,49,341 acres of forests** under community governance
- About **INR 90 lakhs** were leveraged from Tribal and MFP Federation for the restoration of **3 lakh acres** of forest lands and water bodies
- A cohort of **3,500 women Leaders** of SHGs from **1,800 villages** participated in sustainable MFP collection and regeneration trainings across **15 districts**. **800 women** strengthened community-based exercises through the use of technology at the village and panchayat level
- Ground-level functionaries including forest guards, Patwaris, Gram Panchayat Sachivs, and primary cooperative members, across **15 districts** were provided on-line and off-line training, to improve the functioning of district-level committees and district administrations



"All women in our village ensure that we follow sustainable harvesting of NTFPs. While collecting Sal seeds, we take care not to cut or break any branches. We've also stopped the practice of burning the forest floor to clear the area, a major cause of forest fires in the past. Instead, we now sweep the ground to make seed collection easier. These small steps are helping our Sal trees thrive and reducing the risk of forest fires. In doing so, we're not just protecting our forests, but also securing our livelihoods for the future."

KIRAN NISHAD

Agharia village, Lormi Block, Mungeli District



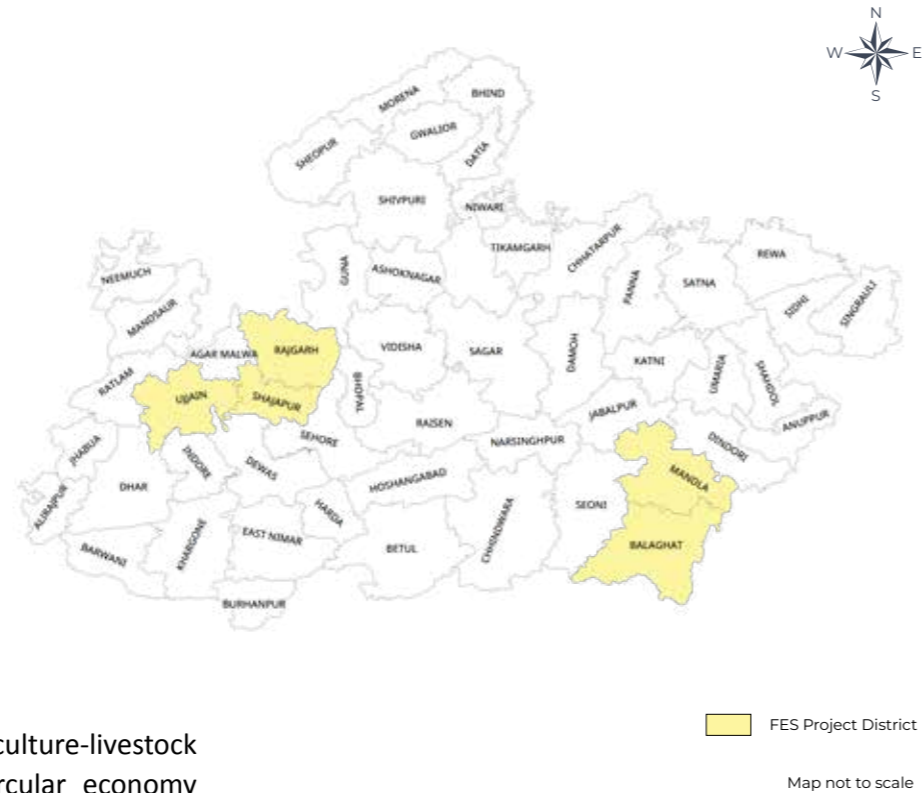
Madhya Pradesh

The Mahakaushal region, which includes the biodiverse Kanha National Park, is home to some of the most vulnerable tribal communities and endangered flora and fauna. The region is characterised by degraded forests, heavily infested with invasive species, low farmland productivity, and distress migration.

In 2024-25, we continued to strengthen state-level coalitions and engagement with CSOs such as Sustainable Development Initiative Association (SDIA—MP) and National Coalition for Natural Farming (NCNF) to promote natural farming by highlighting the Commons-agriculture-livestock linkages and promoting the local circular economy approach. Traditional knowledge and practices were strengthened through *Beej Melas* and the *Apna Khaan Paan, Apna Samaan* campaign, celebrating traditional, uncultivated foods.

Our partnership with CGIAR has helped build a narrative around agroecological practices at national and subnational level. Building on the Partner Network Analysis (PNA), we engaged with MAPs like *Bichhiya Vichar Manch* and *Niwas Grameen Vikas Manch*, to strengthen capacities in the ecosystem. *Mission Govardhan* gained momentum, with emphasis on women’s leadership and panchayat engagement across the Kanha–Narmada landscape.

Operations initiated in 1997; work in the current districts commenced in 2008.



FES Project District
Map not to scale

FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Eastern Plateau and Hills Region and Central Plateau and Hills Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Gaur, Balai, Banjar of Narmada; Lakhundar, Garhganga, Kalisindh

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Dry Deciduous, Tropical Thorn, Scrub

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 180-210 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Tiger, Swamp Deer, Blackbuck, Indian Wolf, Striped Hyena, Green Avadavat, White-rumped Vulture, Indian Vulture, Egyptian Vulture

THREATENED FLORA: *Sterculia urens*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Cleistanthus collinus*, *Terminalia arjuna*; *Adina cordifolia*, *Dolichandrone falcata*, *Grewia asiatica*

UPDATE 2024–25

- **10 VIs** engaged to bring **570 acres of Commons** under community governance
- **312 acres of Commons** and **214 acres of farmlands** treated with SMC measures; **822 acres of Commons** revegetated
- **49 Panchayats** supported in GPDP preparation
- **19 women leaders** actively engaged in local governance
- **4,815 households** enabled with on- and off-farm livelihood interventions
- **2 MAPs** supported across **2 blocks**
- **7,368 acres of Commons** mapped using the CLM tool



“Our forest was getting covered with Lantana, and we were losing the native trees and the forest produce we depend on. Since 2016, through community action, we have eradicated Lantana from 247 acres of our forests. Trees like Tendu, Saja, Dhawda, and Kousum are slowly coming back, and we are seeing an increase in production of mushrooms, tubers, and Mahua. These are important for our nutrition and livelihood. We are working to restore the rest of our forests too.”

CHOTELAL SAIYYAM

President, Gram Paryavaran Samiti
Amjhar Village,
Mandla District



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Through FES Teams

486
Village Institutions
Strengthened

247
Thousand People
Impacted

140
Thousand Acres of Commons under
Community Governance

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

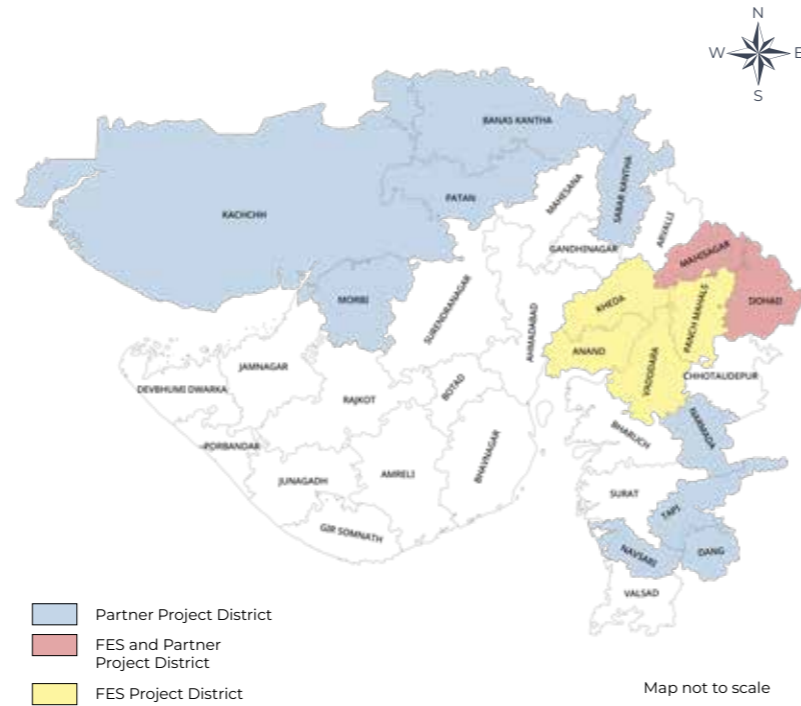
Sustainable Development Initiative Association—Madhya Pradesh (SDIA-MP)

Gujarat

Spanning diverse landscapes, our work in the state covers the eroded ravines of the Mahi River, the saline mudflats of the Gulf of Khambhat, the threatened wetlands of Anand and Kheda, and denuded highlands of Mahisagar, predominantly inhabited by tribal communities.

This year, a State Programme Management Unit was established to build the capacities of ecosystem actors and enhance coordination for the effective implementation of the FRA for enabling Community Forest Rights in the state. Efforts focused on amplifying the agency of women in decision-making spaces and land rights by ensuring their participation in Gram Sabhas and strengthening their leadership capacities. We continued addressing ravine expansion and salinity ingress, promoting sustainable farming, and advancing water conservation. Participatory VERs aided communities in documenting traditional knowledge for better governance of Commons.

Operations initiated in 1987 through the NTGCF; taken forward through FES from 2001.



FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Gujarat Plains and Hills Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Mahi, Sabarmati

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 120-150 days

THREATENED FAUNA: White-rumped Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Sloth Bear, Striped Hyena, Crimson Rose Butterfly, Indian Flapshell Turtle, Alexandrine Parakeet, Barking Deer

THREATENED FLORA: *Commiphora wightii*, *Santalum album*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Dolichandrone falcata*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

	2,200 Village Institutions Strengthened	718 Thousand People Impacted	183 Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	1,100	520	120
Through NGO Partnerships	1,100	198	64

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

Working Group for Women Land Ownership (WGWO); Utthan; Social Action for Rural and Tribal Inhabitants of India (SARTHI); Maldhari Rural Action Group (MARAG); Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) India; Dehaati Gramothan Vikas Samiti (DGVS); Cohesion Foundation

MOUs with

The Commissionerate of Tribal Development (CoTD) Department to operationalise the SPMU for effective implementation of FRA across districts with significant populations of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers

UPDATE 2024-25

- 61 VIs engaged to bring 5,278 acres of Commons under community governance
- Facilitated the submission of 8 CFR claims to bring 3,800 acres of forests under community governance
- 1,960 acres of Commons and 486 acres of private lands treated with SMC measures
- 434 acres of Commons revegetated with 1,27,900 saplings of native species
- 26 Panchayats supported in the GPDP preparation
- 174 women leaders actively engaged in local governance
- 15,874 households supported with on- and off-farm livelihood interventions
- 7,409 households enabled to access social security schemes
- 3 MAPs supported across 3 blocks
- 3,250 acres of Commons mapped using the CLM tool



Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*)

Kotra Well Plot April 1999



Nikhillesh

Kotra Well Plot April 2024



Priyesh Kumar Baria

“Through the Village Ecological Register, we began documenting changes in biodiversity and our traditional practices related to it. We realised that we are losing some important tree species like Guggal, Dhawda, Khakhra, and medicinal plants such as Amla, Avadiya, and Jiji. We now discuss this in meetings and involve youth, so that our traditional knowledge is passed to future generations.”

TAVIYAD SANKALIBEN BHARATBHAI

Panchayat Ward Member

Motirath Village, Mahisagar District

Sanjay Dabhi



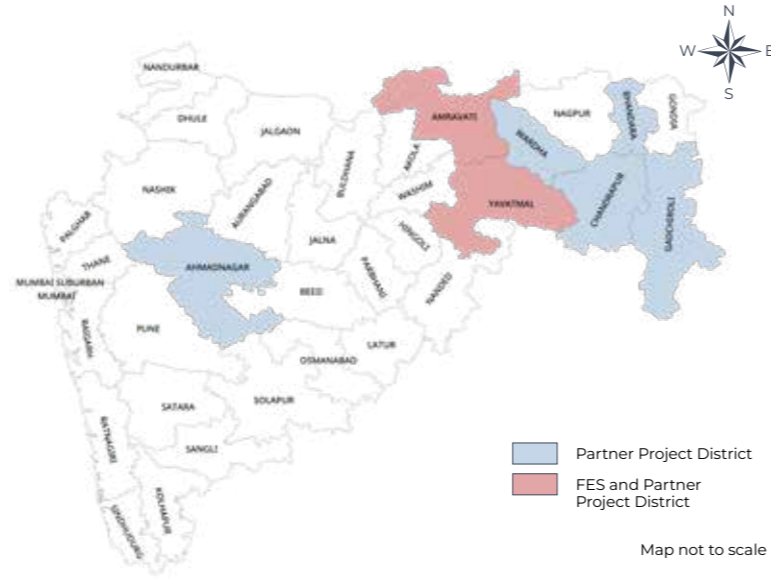
Maharashtra

Agriculture remains the primary livelihood in the state with its extensive forest cover and rich mineral deposits. Water scarcity and over-extraction of surface and groundwater resources has exacerbated scarcity issues, placing immense pressure on agropastoral communities.

Strengthening community stewardship of forests and water Commons continued to be the focus of our initiatives in 2024-25. Our work played a crucial role in ensuring the rights and ownership of various vulnerable tribal groups like the *Madia* (a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group—PVTG) over their forest resources. We also supported villages with CFR titles to be registered as Planning and Implementing Agencies (PIAs) under MGNREGS, enabling them to leverage the funds for restoring their Commons.

In the Waghadi river basin landscape, we facilitated the formation of *Nisarg Vyavasthapan Samitis*, enabling community-led water governance initiatives. This, along with knowledge sharing with CSOs like Cotton Connect, has strengthened community ownership and contributed to evidence-based models of natural resource management.

Operations initiated in 2013.



FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Western Plateau and Hills Region, Eastern Plateau and Hills Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Dry Deciduous, Tropical Moist Deciduous

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 120-150 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Sloth Bear, Leopard, Indian Softshell Turtle, White-rumped Vulture, Forest Owlet, Crimson Rose Butterfly

THREATENED FLORA: *Dipterocarpus indicus*, *Vateria indica*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Cleistanthus collinus*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Grewia asiatica*

UPDATE 2024-25

- **656 VIs** engaged to bring **4,35,404 acres of Commons** under community governance
- **504 acres of Commons** and farm lands treated with SMC measures; **233 acres of Commons** revegetated
- **33 Panchayats** supported in GPDP preparation
- **189 women leaders** actively engaged in local governance
- Crop Water Budgeting exercises, Water Security Assessment and Water Games facilitated across **48 villages**
- **1,951 households** enabled with on- and off-farm livelihood interventions
- **926 households** enabled to access social security schemes
- **2 MAPs** supported across **2 Districts**

Forest Owlet (*Athene blewitti*)



“The river and ponds were once silent witnesses to our lives, always there, yet overlooked. That changed when we got the CFR title under the Forest Rights Act. Through the CFRMC and Gram Sabha, we stopped unsustainable fishing practices, set seasonal rules, and began tracking every catch, reviving not just nature but also our livelihoods and pride. On the personal front, I no longer have to migrate for work; the income from selling surplus fish has enabled me to support my children’s education too.”

CHANDRAKALA SHANKAR KATENGE

CFRMC Member
Sonpur Village,
Gadchiroli District



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

	1,221 Village Institutions Strengthened	1,068 Thousand People Impacted	719 Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	173	179	84
Through NGO Partnerships	645	413	465
Through Government Partnerships	403	476	170

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

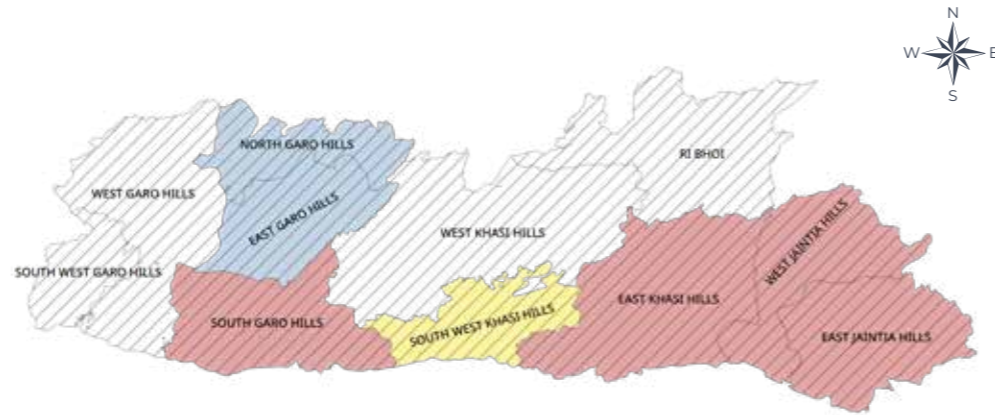
DILASA Sanstha; Society for Rural Initiatives in Sustainable and Holistic Themes in India (SRISHTI); Society for Rural and Urban Joint Activities (SRUJAN); Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai

MOUs with

District Administration, Gadchiroli, to strengthen the livelihoods of tribals and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers; Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Chandrapur and Chimur, to strengthen the implementation of CFR in Chandrapur District; Zilla Parishad, Nanded, to build the capacities of MGNREGS functionaries to enable community-centric, scientific planning of NRM interventions

Meghalaya

Scheduled tribes make up 86% of Meghalaya's population, with most residing in rural areas and dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Forest and water resources have been traditionally managed by communities, through customary laws passed down through generations.



Partner Project District
 FES and Partner Project District
 FES Project District
 Supporting community-based forest management and livelihood improvement through MegLIFE programme

Map not to scale

In 2024-25, efforts were made to advance the MAP process and build a state-level Community Conserved Area (CCA) Forum. This was done to facilitate cross-learning and knowledge exchange through a shared platform for collective management of natural resources. We engaged with academic institutions like North Eastern Hill University to highlight narratives around community stewardship of Commons and with a network of like-minded organisations across the region to emphasise the significance of centring community stewardship in the Payment for Ecosystem Services. Continuing our efforts for usages of tools and technology in soil and water conservation efforts, we are in the process of customising the CLART to incorporate state-specific requirements.

Operations initiated in 2020.

FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Eastern Himalayan Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Brahmaputra, Meghna

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Wet Evergreen, Tropical Semi-Evergreen, Tropical Moist Deciduous, Subtropical Broadleaved Hill, and Subtropical Pine Forests

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 270-300 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Western Hoolock Gibbon, Sun Bear, Asiatic Elephant, Clouded Leopard, Chinese Pangolin, Khasi Hill Rock Toad, Garo Hills Bubble-nest Frog

THREATENED FLORA: *Gymnocladus assamicus*, *Adinandra griffithii*, *Taxus baccata*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

	89 Village Institutions Strengthened	45 Thousand People Impacted	31 Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance
Through FES Teams	42	27	19
Through NGO Partnerships	47	18	12

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

MOUs with

Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) to support the Community-based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE) programme

UPDATE 2024-25

- **23 VIs** supported to form CCA management committees to craft bylaws to bring 10,636 acres of Commons under community governance
- **27 CCA management committees** supported in preparation of CCA management plans, covering 3,086 acres of Commons
- **105 women leaders** identified and capacitated for active participation in local governance processes
- **23 community members** underwent training to monitor **127 springs** in **23 villages** across **4 districts**
- **922 members** were capacitated to document traditional ecological knowledge to strengthen Commons management, including springsheds



Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*)

“Our own neglect led to forest degradation. Realising this, we began protecting and restoring our forests. Today, degraded patches are regenerating, traditional water sources are flowing again, and soil and air quality have improved, breathing new life into our village. Native birds like the kalij pheasant, hornbill, and red jungle fowl, along with mammals such as hoolock gibbon, wild boar, black bear, and more have returned. A richer variety of plants and medicinal herbs now thrive. As active CCA committee members, this journey has empowered us and transformed our community for a better future.”

SILME SANGMA

Secretary, Women's Committee
Rogtra Gittim Village,
South Garo Hills District

Melanie Passah



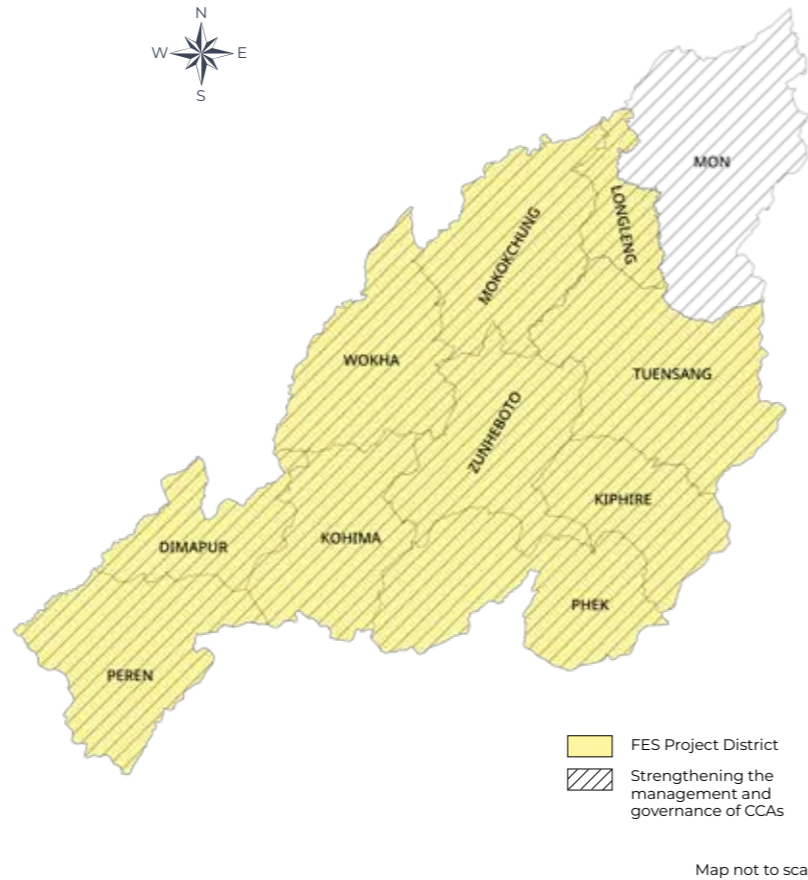
Mojet Ch Marak

Nagaland

Situated within the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, Nagaland's biodiversity reveals high endemism. With a total forest cover of 75% of its geography, the state is home to 16 recognised tribes, spread across 17 districts, with strong traditional institutions and collective land ownership.

This year, we continued to strengthen the capacities of CCAs and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). This was done across ten landscapes, so as to develop gender-inclusive management plans for the governance of CCAs. Advancing the MAP process in the Satoi, Zanubu and Mount Pauna landscapes, our efforts focused on the conservation of threatened species, improved corridor management, and springshed restoration. FES, in partnership with Nagaland Community Conserved Areas Forum (NCCAF), ran campaigns to highlight collective action in natural resource management. The decade-long journey of CCAs was celebrated this year, focusing on the role of community stewards in biodiversity conservation, honouring their achievements, recognising the challenges, and deepening the networks. Acknowledging their pivotal role in the region, the Nagaland State Biodiversity Board partnered with NCCAF to support the Forest and Biodiversity Management in the Himalaya (Nagaland) project.

Operations initiated in 2011.



FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Eastern Himalayan Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Dikhu, Dhansiri, Doyang and Tizu River

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Dry Deciduous, Tropical Thorn, Scrub

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 270-300 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Western Hoolock Gibbon, Blyth's Tragopan, Chinese Pangolin, Clouded Leopard

THREATENED FLORA: *Dipterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Taxus wallichiana*, *Shorea assamica*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

Nagaland Community Conserved Areas Forum (NCCAF)

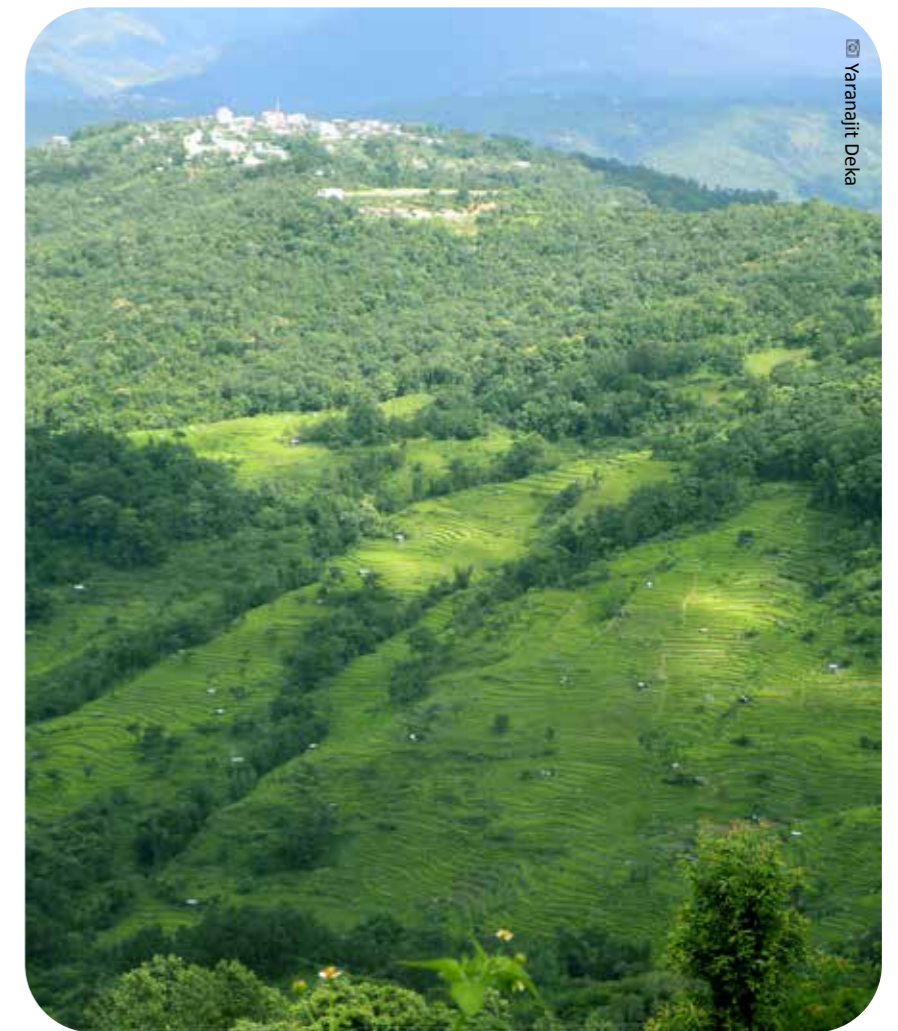
MOUs with

Nagaland Forest Management Project Society to strengthen the management and governance of Commons by building institutional capacity of JFMC and SHG in Phek district under the JICA-aided Nagaland Forest Management Project

UPDATE 2024-25

- **22 VIs** engaged to bring **20,074 acres of Commons** under community governance
- **4,000 acres** covered under agro-biodiversity and re-vegetation measures
- MAP processes advanced in **two existing federations; six new landscape-level**, gender-inclusive CCA federations established, for community governance
- **9 CCAs** covering **48 villages** supported in preparation of the CCA management plans using the CCA Management Plan Framework, jointly developed by Nagaland Empowerment of People through Economic Development (NEPED) and FES
- **755 community representatives**, including women and youth, capacitated on participatory natural resource management, documentation of village ecology, eco-restoration activities, nature-based livelihoods and citizen science initiatives
- **54 women leaders** identified and leadership skills built to encourage active engagement in local governance processes
- **INR 9 lakh** was mobilised by **18 SHGs**, covering **390 households**, as a revolving fund to support on-farm and off-farm income generating activities, under the JICA-aided Nagaland Forest Management Project, in two districts

Blyth's Tragopan (*Tragopan blythii*)



Varanajit Deka

*“Our forests, managed for generations, are now facing significant challenges. With timely support, we’ve now developed a long-term vision to protect our biodiversity. The community collectively initiated a Forest Sustainability and Development Fund (FSDF), strengthening local leadership and fostering biodiversity stewards for sustainable forest management. We are now happy to witness the return of some of the native species like Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hollock (*Terminalia myriocarpa*) and Bogipoma (*Chukrasia tabularis*).”*

HILO POJAR

Chairperson, JFMC

Akhen Village, Phek District



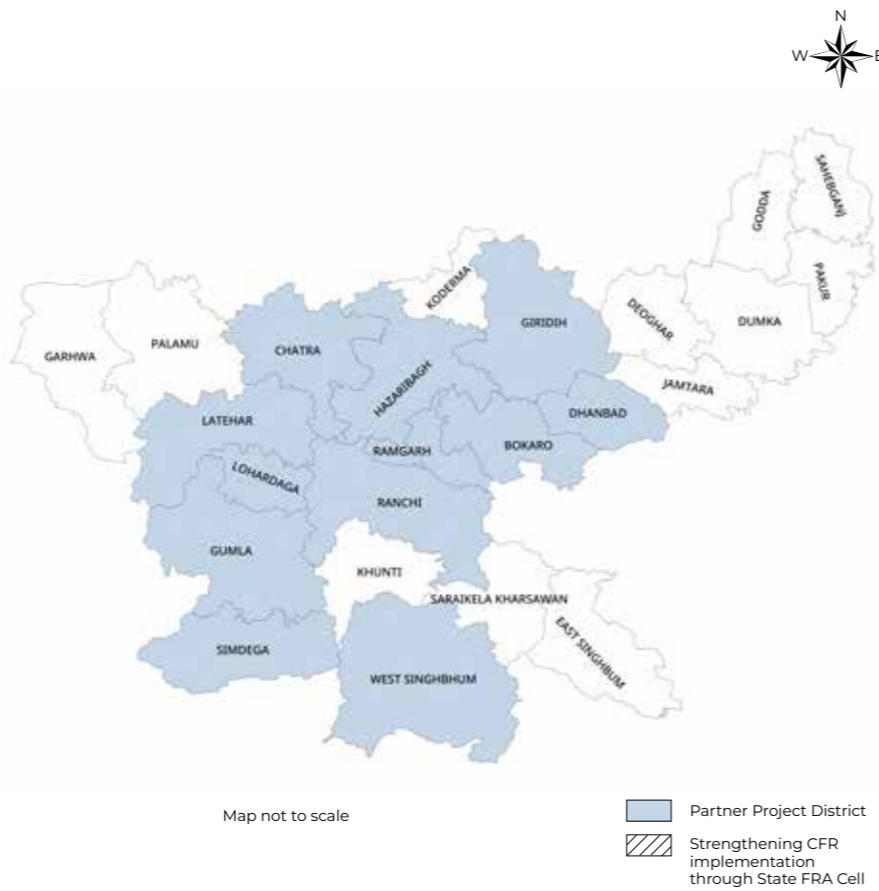
Awietshurho Kajiri

Jharkhand

With forests covering 30% of its landmass, Jharkhand is rich in minerals and other natural resources. The landscapes span the dense forests of the Chotanagpur Plateau to the hilly terrain of the Santhal Parganas. Tribal communities constitute 25% of the state's population, with traditional customary tenure rights over their forests. The effective implementation of the FRA, 2006, could further reinforce their rights, resulting in the improved management of natural resources in the state.

During the year, we continued working through the State FRA Cell to facilitate and expedite the CFR claims in the state. Use of enabling digital infrastructure like the 'JharFRA' application, and coordinated training sessions for district-level officials in relevant departments, such as Forest, Tribal Welfare, Revenue, and Rural Development facilitated the FRA implementation in the state. Efforts were also made towards building capacities in the ecosystems for landscape restoration and embedding concepts such as local circular economy to facilitate better governance of Commons in the state. The campaign *Abua Bir, Abua Dishom Abhiyan* improved reach through raising awareness and made information and tools, for supporting action on ground, accessible.

Operations initiated in 2019.



FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONES: Eastern and Chota Nagpur Plateau and Hills Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Subarnarekha, Damodar, South Koel, and Brahmani

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Moist Deciduous and Tropical Dry Deciduous

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: 150-180 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Asian elephant, Sloth bear, White Rumped Vulture, Red-headed Vulture, River Lapwing, Three-striped Roofed Turtle

THREATENED FLORA: *Chlorophytum borivilianum*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Cleistanthus Collinus*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Through NGO Partnerships

3,006
Village Institutions Strengthened

987
Thousand People Impacted

1,404
Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Implementing Partners

Institute of Community Forest Governance (ICFG), Partnering Hope Into Action (PHIA) Foundation

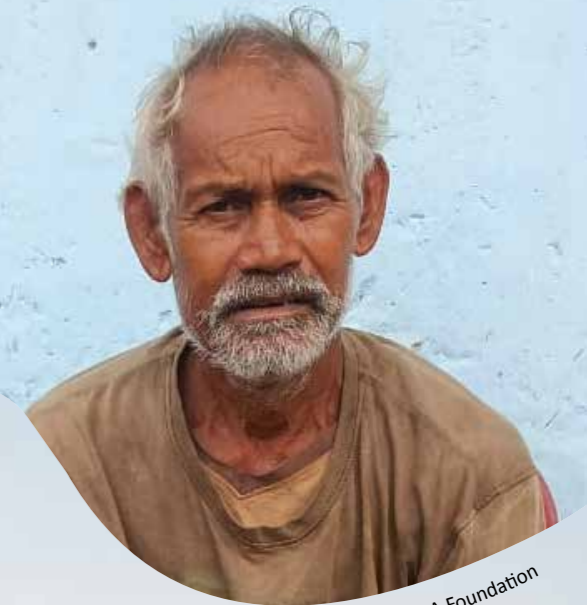
MOUs with

Tribal Welfare Department, in collaboration with PHIA Foundation, to support the implementation of Forests Rights Act through State FRA Cell

UPDATE 2024-25

- Partnerships supported **632 village institutions** to bring **6,34,200 acres of Commons** under community governance
- A pool of **100 master trainers** was created from on-ground functionaries to build capacities for CFR implementation at district, block and village level
- 2 state level workshops**, with participation of District Collectors, District Forest Officers and Secretaries from Revenue, Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Tribal Welfare facilitated dialogues on creating an enabling environment for taking forward CFR implementation in the state

River Lapwing (*Vanellus duvaucelii*)



Abinash Kujur, PHIA Foundation

“Over the past few years, birds like the Gorrai had nearly vanished from our forests. Even Chelakchela, Tiptipi, and Pirango were rarely seen, likely due to erratic rainfall and habitat disturbance. But with our continued efforts to protect the forest and restore habitats, these birds are now returning. This gives us hope and clearly indicates that our work can make a real difference for restoring our forests—our lifeline.”

RAJESH TOPPO

FRC President
Karramunda Village,
Simdega District

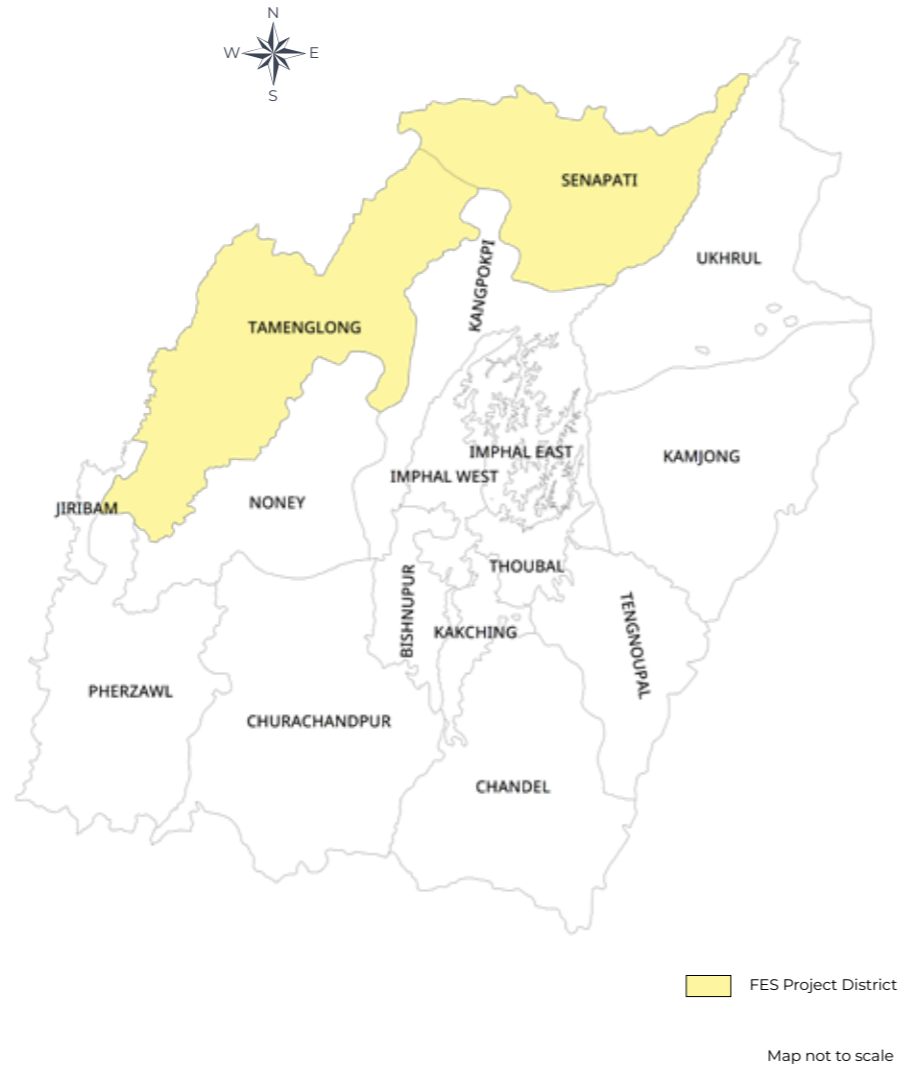
Kiran Singh

Manipur

Manipur has a forest cover of 78%, as reported in the India State of Forest Report, 2019. The reserved, protected, and unclassed forests are 8.42%, 23.95% and 67.63%, respectively, of the state's recorded forest area. However, increasing deforestation and weakening institutional arrangements have negatively impacted the health of forests and local biodiversity.

This year, we focused on strengthening CCAs by supporting ten Village Institutions in developing context-specific management plans and crafting village-level bylaws for inclusive forest and biodiversity governance. To foster community stewardship, we built the capacities of CCA management committee members, youth and women in springshed mapping, ecological monitoring, and management planning. Community-led nurseries and native seed collection efforts contributed to ecosystem restoration. These initiatives will enhance local ecological resilience and long-term institutional capacity. At the state level, we partnered with the Manipur State Biodiversity Board to support the revision of the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, ensuring that grassroots conservation priorities are reflected in policy frameworks.

Operations initiated in 2021.



FACT FILE

AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONE: Eastern Himalayan Region

MAJOR RIVER BASIN: Barak, Imphal and Iril

FOREST TYPES: Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forests, Subtropical Broadleaved Forests, Subtropical Pine Forests

LENGTH OF GROWING PERIOD: More than 300 days

THREATENED FAUNA: Western Hoolock Gibbon, Stump-tailed Macaque, Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, Keeled Box Turtle, Sangai Deer

THREATENED FLORA: *Lilium macklineae*, *Saurauia punduana*

UPDATE 2024-25

- **10 village institutions** were supported to establish CCA institutions, formulate bylaws, and prepare CCA management plans using the CCA Management Plan Framework
- **100 community representatives** were capacitated on CCA management planning process, documentation of ecological knowledge, springshed mapping and citizen science initiatives
- To advance the MAP process at the landscape level, consultations with CCA stakeholders were held to evolve a collaborative landscape federation for the conservation of the Barak River catchment
- As a part of the citizen science initiatives, various events were celebrated across the region, including the Great Backyard Bird Count, World Earth Day, World River Day, International Women's Day and World Environment Day
- Mr. Poulunii, a community member from Purul Village, presented the CCA's conservation efforts at the Community Conference 2024 during World Commons Week



Shirui Lily (*Lilium macklineae*)



Ezekiel, Pangmaram village

“Our village is near the Barak River, where fishing is an important part of our tradition. We celebrate festivals like Khajoi to honour this bond. When fish numbers started to decline due to harmful practices, we came together and made rules: no fishing during the breeding season, no use of chemicals, and no fishing by outsiders. Now the fish are returning and we are happy to see it.”

MALUNG R

Community Member

Willong Pangmaram Village, Senapati District

Sanjay Sharma

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Through FES Teams

11
Village Institutions Strengthened

16
Thousand People Impacted

4
Thousand Acres of Commons under Community Governance

Cumulative as on 31 March 2025

Financial Highlights 2024-25

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

© Shreya Sharma

A woman MGNREGS mate updating the sites records at a worksite in Gogunda, Rajasthan. Public schemes such as MGNREGS are supporting community-led restoration of Commons across the country.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To
The Members of
Foundation For Ecological Security
Anand, Gujarat.

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of **FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY** ('the Society'), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2025 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date attached thereto, and a summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Other Explanatory Information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Society's Management is responsible for the preparation of these Financial Statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Society in accordance with the Accounting Principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Financial Statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Financial Statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Financial Statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Society's preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Financial Statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the Financial Statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

(a) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at March 31, 2025;



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(b) In the case of the Income & Expenditure Account of the excess of Income over Expenditure of the Society for the year ended on that date.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Rule No. 13.7 of the Society, we further report that:

- In our opinion, proper books of account have been maintained by the society so far as appears from our examination of those books;
- We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit;
- No personal expense of officers and members of the Governing Board, except for those payable as per the terms of the appointment/ agreement of authorized by the rules and regulations of the Society, have been charged in the books of accounts;
- The transactions of the Society are not in contravention of the constitutions of the Society, its rules and regulation;
- The Board of Governors has been properly constituted in accordance with the covenants of the Society's rules and regulations.

For Borkar & Muzumdar
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No: 101569W




Devang Vaghani
Partner
Membership No: 109386
Place: Mumbai
Date: June 27, 2025
UDIN: 25109386BMLXAI5616

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT	Sch.	31st Mar 2025	31st Mar 2024
		₹	₹
I. SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Corpus Fund	2	2,84,28,99,539	2,84,28,99,539
Reserves And Surplus	3	8,24,27,432	7,71,17,827
Programme Funds	4	66,89,10,761	48,03,84,175
Liabilities & Provisions	5	2,77,56,545	2,63,18,740
TOTAL		3,62,19,94,277	3,42,67,20,281
II. APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
FIXED ASSETS			
Assets (Net Block)	6	6,69,78,762	6,32,27,009
Work in Progress - Building	6	5,50,799	-
Intangible Assets under Development	6	8,47,476	8,47,476
INVESTMENT	7	2,18,03,53,878	2,12,35,46,431
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES			
Cash and Bank Balances	8	1,29,32,91,667	1,18,27,00,921
Other Current Assets	9	2,92,34,876	2,74,82,760
Loans and Advances	10	5,07,36,819	2,89,15,685
TOTAL		3,62,19,94,277	3,42,67,20,281
Significant Accounting Policies	1		
Notes on Accounts	14		

As per report of even date



For Borkar & Muzumdar
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No : 101569W

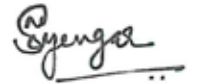


Place : Mumbai
Date : 27.06.2025

Devang Vaghani
Partner



Place : Anand
Date : 27.06.2025



Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar
Chairperson



Subrata Kumar Singh
Executive Director

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED	Sch.	31st Mar 2025	31st Mar 2024
		₹	₹
I. INCOME			
Funds Received:			
- Grants For Projects		96,61,01,632	84,06,10,564
Interest and Other Receipts	11	25,44,37,585	23,24,20,619
Total		1,22,05,39,217	1,07,30,31,183
II. EXPENDITURE			
A. PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES	12		
I.A. Strengthening Community Based Institutions for Conservation of Natural Resources		74,60,25,424	74,74,64,330
I.B. Informatics, Planning and Development		2,80,13,253	2,54,45,810
I.C. Capacity Building		35,76,685	62,16,128
I.D. Commons Initiative and Public Education		7,73,48,047	7,64,56,775
I.E. Studies and Documentation		4,95,70,450	2,98,47,963
		90,45,33,859	88,54,31,006
B. Administrative and Recurring Expenses	13	9,91,70,556	8,46,89,033
		9,91,70,556	8,46,89,033
C. Depreciation			
Depreciation (Sch. 6 Column G)		1,40,58,376	1,44,21,291
Less: Adjusted against Capital Fund (Sch. 3)		1,40,58,376	1,44,21,291
		-	-
Total		1,00,37,04,414	97,01,20,039
Excess of Income over Expenditure		21,68,34,802	10,29,11,144
Amount transferred to/(from) Projects/Other Accounts			
i. Indian fund project Account (Sch 4 I)		16,25,55,100	5,89,11,833
ii. Foreign Funds not covered under FCRA project Account (Sch 4 II a)		50,26,716	(12,20,706)
iii. Foreign Funds covered under FCRA project Account (Sch 4 II b)		4,75,32,541	4,32,52,604
iv. Balance transferred to Capital Fund Account (Sch 3 A)		2,93,436	3,33,842
v. Provisions Compensation (Sch 5)		1,50,000	1,50,000
vi. Employee's Benevolent Fund (Sch 5)		5,63,393	4,37,456
Balance of Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet		7,13,616	10,46,115
Significant Accounting Policies	1		
Notes on Accounts	14		
As per report of even date			



For Borkar & Muzumdar
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No : 101569W

Devang Vaghani
Devang Vaghani
Partner



Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar
Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar
Chairperson

Subrata Kumar Singh
Subrata Kumar Singh
Executive Director

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

FUND FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED	Sch.	31st Mar 2025	31st Mar 2024
		₹	₹
FUND INFLOW			
Opening Balance:			
Bank Balances in Current Accounts	8	1,39,64,905	1,61,07,994
Bank Balances in Savings Accounts	8	12,97,09,254	12,07,53,641
Fixed Deposit with upto one year maturity	8	1,03,90,26,761	54,58,58,573
Fund Received:			
Grants For Projects		96,61,01,632	84,06,10,564
Corpus Donation		-	1,75,00,00,000
Interest and Other Receipts		25,44,37,585	23,24,20,619
Increase in Liabilities & Provisions		7,24,413	-
Total		2,40,39,64,550	3,50,57,51,391
FUND OUTFLOW			
Strengthening Community Based Institutions for Conservation of Natural Resources		74,60,25,424	74,74,64,330
Informatics, Planning and Development		2,80,13,253	2,54,45,810
Capacity Building		35,76,685	62,16,128
Commons Initiative and Public Education		7,73,48,047	7,64,56,775
Studies and Documentation		4,95,70,450	2,98,47,963
Administrative and Recurring Expenses		9,91,70,556	8,46,89,033
Capital Expenses		1,83,76,042	1,27,15,412
Increase in Loans and Advances & Other Current Asset		2,35,73,249	75,81,665
Decrease in Liabilities & Provisions		82,11,730	35,69,059
Investment & Term Deposit with Banks		5,68,07,447	1,32,90,64,295
Closing Balance:			
Bank Balances in Current Accounts	8	1,64,86,444	1,39,64,905
Bank Balances in Savings Accounts	8	18,67,73,800	12,97,09,254
Fixed Deposit with upto one year maturity	8	1,09,00,31,423	1,03,90,26,761
Total		2,40,39,64,550	3,50,57,51,391

As per report of even date



For Borkar & Muzumdar
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No : 101569W

Place : Mumbai
Date : 27.06.2025

Devang Vaghani
Devang Vaghani
Partner



Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar
Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar
Chairperson

Place : Anand
Date : 27.06.2025

Subrata Kumar Singh
Subrata Kumar Singh
Executive Director

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

SCHEDULE 1: BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIETY'S OPERATIONS:

Foundation for Ecological Security (The 'Society') has been registered on 08.02.2001 under the "Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860" and the registered office of the Society is at IDA House, Sector IV, RK Puram, New Delhi.

1. Nature of present activities:

1.1 The Society is essentially engaged in supporting various activities aimed at re-vegetation of degraded lands, stabilization of water regimes, and revitalization of local self governance of rural communities by providing managerial, technical and financial assistance to the Community Based Institutions such as Community Forest Management Committees, Sub Committees of Panchayats, Watershed Associations, Village Forest Committees and Cooperatives.

1.2 The Society undertakes studies and research related to the understanding of ecological processes and the biology of endemic species and the various socio economic aspects of the associated human communities. The Society also undertakes activities to help in the creation of a coherent perspective on forest and water related land-use practice. It helps in the dissemination of knowledge and information through public education programmes.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements:

1.1 The financial statements are prepared under historical cost convention, on accrual basis of accounting and in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles and accounting standards, unless otherwise stated.

2. Revenue Recognition:

2.1. Grants / Funds are accounted for on cash basis.

2.2. In respect of assignments for Studies, Surveys, Training etc. the income is recognized on accrual basis.

2.3. Interest income is recognized on accrual basis.

3. Investments:

3.1 All investments of FES are made as per the provisions of section 11(5) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Investments are valued and recorded at cost.

4. Fixed Assets:

4.1. Fixed Assets are stated at cost of acquisition.

4.2. Depreciation has been charged on the assets at the following rates, which in the opinion of the Society would cover the normally expected period of useful life of each of the category

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

of assets on straight-line method. Assets of value up to Rs.5,000 are charged to Revenue and Assets of value more than Rs.5,000 are capitalized in the year of purchase.

Class of Assets	Rate %
Buildings on land belonging to the society	5
Office equipment and all other assets	10
Furniture and fixture	10
Motor Vehicles	20
Computers, peripherals and other allied equipment	33.33

4.3. In case of assets acquired during the year, depreciation is charged at half of the rates, while for assets existing at the commencement of the year full rates are applied.

4.4. The depreciation on Assets created out of Project Account (Grant) is adjusted against Capital Fund.

5. Employees' Benefits:

5.1. Contribution to Provident Fund and Superannuation Schemes are accounted for on accrual basis.

5.2. The Society has created a Trust which has taken a Master Policy with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for payment of gratuity to eligible employees in future. The Society contributes to the Trust the equivalent amount of the premium payable to LIC every year which is sufficient to cover full gratuity liability when accruable for payment.

5.3. Provision for Leave encashment benefit to Employees includes –

5.3.1 Provision for Paid Leave encashment accounted for on the basis of actual liability at the financial year end.

5.3.2 Provision for Personal Leave encashment at the time of retirement (maximum 120 days) accounted on the basis of actual liability at the financial year end for employees retiring in next two financial years.

6. Corpus Fund:

The corpus fund comprises of amount as per the decision of the Canadian International Development Agency and Swedish International Development Authority which established a Corpus Fund created out of the Tree Growers' Cooperative Project Fund and subsequent contributions received from various donors towards corpus fund. The interest earned on corpus funds till 31/03/2022 is added to it.

7. Valuation of inventory:

Equipments for distribution to communities are valued at cost.

8. Disclosure and classification of expenditure:

All expenditure incurred under I.A. 'Strengthening Community-Based Institutions for Conservation of Natural Resources' refers to program expenditure directly supporting conservation efforts at the village level through Community-Based Institutions, as well as the work of our program teams and partners. Expenditures under I.B. 'Informatics, Planning and Development', I.C. 'Capacity Building', I.D. 'Commons Initiative and Public Education', and I.E. 'Studies and Documentation', as reflected in the financial statements, pertain to activities undertaken by the Society in furtherance of its larger mission.

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025



Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS AT	31st Mar 2025	31st Mar 2024
	₹	₹
SCHEDULE : 2 CORPUS FUND		
(I) Indian Funds		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	2,05,38,99,539	30,38,99,539
Add: Received during the year	-	1,75,00,00,000
Total I	2,05,38,99,539	2,05,38,99,539
(II) Foreign Funds		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	78,90,00,000	78,90,00,000
Add: Received during the year	-	-
Total II	78,90,00,000	78,90,00,000
Total	2,84,28,99,539	2,84,28,99,539
SCHEDULE : 3 RESERVES AND SURPLUS		
A. CAPITAL FUND		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	6,22,64,541	6,36,36,586
Add: Transferred from Project accounts (Sch. 4)		
- Indian Funds	1,46,03,614	1,14,27,577
- Foreign Funds covered under FCRA	37,72,428	12,87,835
	1,83,76,042	1,27,15,412
Add: Transferred from Income and Expenditure account	2,93,436	3,33,842
Less: Assets Written-off	15,113	9
Less: Depreciation during the year	1,40,58,376	1,44,21,291
Total A	6,68,60,530	6,22,64,541
B. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	1,48,53,286	1,38,07,172
Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	7,13,616	10,46,115
Total B	1,55,66,902	1,48,53,286
Total (A+B)	8,24,27,432	7,71,17,827



Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

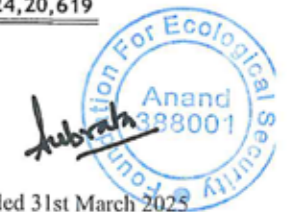
SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS AT	31st Mar 2025	31st Mar 2024
	₹	₹
SCHEDULE : 4 PROGRAMME FUNDS		
(I) Indian Funds		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	30,48,13,870	26,00,37,513
Add/(Less): Transferred from/(to) Income and Expenditure Account	16,25,55,100	5,89,11,833
Add: Written-off/Written-back (Ref.Sch.4.1(a))	10,03,329	-
Less: Unspent Fund Returned to Donor (Ref.Sch.4)	82,11,730	27,07,899
Less: Transferred to Capital Fund (Ref.Sch.3.A)	1,46,03,614	1,14,27,577
Sub Total (I)	44,55,56,955	30,48,13,870
(II) Foreign Funds		
(a) Agencies not covered under FCRA		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	11,94,174	24,14,879
Add/(Less): Transferred from/(to) Income and Expenditure Account	50,26,716	(12,20,706)
Less: Written-off/Written-back (Ref.Sch.4.1(b)(I))	10,03,329	-
Sub Total II (a)	52,17,561	11,94,174
(b) Agencies covered under FCRA		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	17,43,76,132	13,24,11,363
Add/(Less): Transferred from/(to) Income and Expenditure Account	4,75,32,541	4,32,52,604
Less: Transferred to Capital Fund (Ref.Sch.3.A)	37,72,428	12,87,835
Sub Total II (b)	21,81,36,245	17,43,76,132
Total (I)+II(a)+II(b)	66,89,10,761	48,03,84,175
SCHEDULE : 5 LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS		
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	49,220	3,85,946
Statutory Dues Payable	9,02,381	8,62,983
For Expenses	9,75,825	10,55,371
	19,27,426	23,04,300
Employee's Benevolent Fund	1,19,71,049	1,04,81,686
Provisions		
Leave Encashment	92,00,069	87,83,990
Gratuity	19,61,618	22,02,381
Compensation	26,96,383	25,46,383
	1,38,58,070	1,35,32,754
Total	2,77,56,545	2,63,18,740



Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

SCHEDULE TO ACCOUNTS AS AT MARCH 31, 2025

Particulars	GROSS BLOCK (AT COST)				DEPRECIATION				NET BLOCK				
	As on 01.04.2024	Additions	Deductions	Total as on 31.03.2025	For the year	Deductions	Total as on 31.03.2025	As on 01.04.2024	For the year	Deductions	Total as on 31.03.2025	As on 31.03.2025	As on 31.03.2024
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Freehold Land	2,02,06,826	-	-	2,02,06,826	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,02,06,826	2,02,06,826
Buildings	3,31,26,232	-	-	3,31,26,232	1,45,89,046	15,81,525	1,61,70,571	1,61,70,571	1,69,55,661	-	1,61,70,571	1,69,55,661	1,85,37,186
Computers and Allied Equipments	7,12,15,953	64,05,940	-	7,76,21,893	5,83,11,552	90,60,671	6,73,72,223	6,73,72,223	1,02,49,670	-	6,73,72,223	1,02,49,670	1,29,04,401
Vehicles	1,71,59,198	60,70,450	-	2,32,29,648	1,63,14,951	9,90,160	1,73,05,111	1,73,05,111	59,24,537	-	1,73,05,111	59,24,537	8,44,247
Furniture and Fixtures	99,57,839	6,67,321	-	1,06,25,160	70,79,284	6,09,182	76,88,466	76,88,466	29,36,694	-	76,88,466	29,36,694	28,78,555
Office Equipments and other Assets	2,77,73,272	46,81,532	15,908	3,24,38,896	1,99,17,479	18,16,838	2,17,33,522	2,17,33,522	1,07,05,374	795	2,17,33,522	1,07,05,374	78,55,793
Total	17,94,39,321	1,78,25,243	15,908	19,72,48,655	11,62,12,312	1,40,58,376	13,02,69,893	13,02,69,893	6,69,78,762	795	13,02,69,893	6,69,78,762	6,32,27,009
Work in Progress - Building	-	5,50,799	-	5,50,799	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,50,799	-
Previous Year's Total	16,80,06,049	1,27,15,412	12,82,140	17,94,39,321	10,30,73,152	1,44,21,291	12,82,131	12,82,131	6,32,27,009	-	11,62,12,312	6,32,27,009	-
Intangible Assets under Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current Year's Total	8,47,476	-	-	8,47,476	-	-	-	-	8,47,476	-	-	8,47,476	-
Previous Year's Total	8,47,476	-	-	8,47,476	-	-	-	-	8,47,476	-	-	8,47,476	-



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS AT

31st Mar 2025 31st Mar 2024

SCHEDULE : 7 INVESTMENT

Investment in Govt. Securities, Treasury Bills, & Bonds; and Fixed Deposits with above one year maturity*

- Corpus Fund	2,18,03,53,878	2,11,72,45,978
- Reserve & Surplus	-	63,00,453
Total	2,18,03,53,878	2,12,35,46,431
(Includes FD's with Axis Bank are under lien for APPI Corpus Fund)	1,13,75,00,000	1,13,75,00,000

SCHEDULE : 8 CASH AND BANK BALANCES

Cash & Bank Balances

- Current Accounts	1,64,86,444	1,39,64,905
- Savings Accounts	18,67,73,800	12,97,09,254
- Fixed Deposit with upto one year maturity from the reporting date*	1,09,00,31,423	1,03,90,26,761

Total 1,29,32,91,667 1,18,27,00,921

(Corpus Funds in Cash & Bank Balances)

(Includes FD's with BOB are under lien for Govt. of Rajasthan projects)	66,25,45,660	72,56,53,561
(Includes FD's with BOB is under lien for MakeMy Trip India Pvt. Ltd., for availing credit facility)	-	21,97,233
(Includes FD's with Axis Bank is under lien for APPI Corpus Fund)	15,00,000	-
	61,25,00,000	61,25,00,000

SCHEDULE : 9 OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

Interest accrued on Term Deposits & Treasury Bills	2,92,34,876	2,74,82,760
Total	2,92,34,876	2,74,82,760

SCHEDULE : 10 LOANS AND ADVANCES

Unsecured

Advances for implementation of Projects:

- For Travelling and other advances	9,19,659	2,37,134
- For Supply of materials and services	1,65,67,774	47,67,215
Receivable for Project Expenses/Advances	1,74,87,433	50,04,349
Tax Deducted at Source/Tax Collected at Source	1,36,02,851	51,33,220
Security Deposit	1,78,34,176	1,70,62,257
	18,12,359	17,15,859
Total	5,07,36,819	2,89,15,685

SCHEDULE : 11 INTEREST & OTHER RECEIPTS

Programme

- Indian Funds (Sch.4.1 column D)	18,32,95,464	16,53,03,064
- Foreign Funds not covered under FCRA (Sch. 4.1 column D)	1,03,697	25,409
- Foreign Funds covered under FCRA (Sch. 4.1 column D)	6,84,17,784	6,50,10,001
Specific Funds		
- Capital Fund	2,93,436	2,27,451
- Society	14,27,009	16,33,571
Interest on Income-tax Refund	9,00,195	1,14,732
Capital Gain on Sale of Assets	-	1,06,391
Total	25,44,37,585	23,24,20,619

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS AT	31st Mar 2025	31st Mar 2024
	₹	₹
SCHEDULE : 12 PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES		
I.A. Strengthening Community Based Institutions for Conservation of Natural Resources		
1. Planning and Survey	16,39,242	26,43,595
2. Formation and Strengthening of Community based Institutions	16,69,87,503	9,69,05,168
3. Soil and Water conservation measures	12,50,74,547	15,88,27,554
4. Revegetation measures	5,57,55,593	4,11,38,925
5. Measures to sustain livelihoods	6,91,87,992	12,71,01,256
6. Energy conservation activities	9,67,834	-
7. Capacity building activities at village level	22,71,95,367	22,26,67,737
8. Programme assistance		
- Externally assisted Projects	6,20,80,294	6,14,31,286
- Co-Financed Projects	1,62,71,645	1,61,01,535
- Leveraging Government Funds	2,08,65,407	2,06,47,274
Total I	74,60,25,424	74,74,64,330
I.B. Informatics, Planning and Development	2,80,13,253	2,54,45,810
I.C. Capacity Building	35,76,685	62,16,128
I.D. Commons Initiative and Public Education	7,73,48,047	7,64,56,775
I.E. Studies and Documentation	4,95,70,450	2,98,47,963
Total II	15,85,08,435	13,79,66,675
Total (I+II)	90,45,33,859	88,54,31,006

SCHEDULE : 13. ADMINISTRATIVE AND RECURRING EXPENSES

1. Staff Salaries and Benefits		
- Externally assisted Projects	2,30,85,552	2,01,47,234
- Co-Financed Projects	48,93,000	42,70,221
- Leveraging Government Funds	1,43,64,119	1,25,35,862
- Core Organizational activities	1,04,83,996	91,49,598
	<u>5,28,26,667</u>	<u>4,61,02,916</u>
2. Travel and Conveyance expenses	26,29,966	16,34,171
3. Training Expenses	8,07,775	21,240
4. Professional fees and Consultancy expenses	82,80,080	67,67,099
5. Vehicle running and maintenance expenses	41,38,548	37,31,270
6. Rent, Rates, Taxes and Electricity expenses	1,05,54,003	94,10,287
7. Communication expenses	21,64,121	16,06,250
8. Printing and Stationery expenses	32,83,127	28,79,692
9. Computer maintenance expenses	44,39,520	31,67,302
10. General repairs and maintenance expenses	9,75,836	12,95,926
11. Insurance premium expenses	8,95,583	7,84,337
12. Statutory Audit Fees and expenses	9,83,638	4,27,999
13. Office expenses	28,79,416	24,45,166
14. Institutional Overheads	-	18,197
15. Sanitation and Security expenses	40,48,716	36,60,912
16. Financial charges	2,63,560	7,36,270
Total	9,91,70,556	8,46,89,033

SCHEDULE 2.1 - Corpus Fund investment details as of March 31, 2025

Sl. No.	Particulars	Indian Funds	Foreign Funds	Total
1	Govt. Securities, Treasury Bills	23,14,13,500	78,89,99,128	1,02,04,12,628
2	Bonds - Public Housing Finance Company	1,76,41,250	-	1,76,41,250
3	Fixed Deposits with above one year maturity	1,14,23,00,000	-	1,14,23,00,000
4	Fixed Deposits with upto one year maturity	66,25,00,000	-	66,25,00,000
5	Bank Accounts	44,788	872	45,660
	Total	2,05,38,99,538	78,90,00,000	2,84,28,99,538



Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

Sl. No.	Agency Name	INCOME					EXPENDITURES					Non Recurring Expenses incurred during the year	Unspent Fund Returned to Donor	Written-off/Written-back	In Balance As on 31.03.2025
		Opening Balance As on 1.4.2024	Fund received during the year	Interest and Other Income	Total Income during the year	Programme Expenditures	Administration Expenses	Total Expenses incurred during the year	Excess of (Expenditure)/ Income over Expenditure incurred during the year	H (F+G)	I (E-H)				
A Projects															
(a) Indian Contributions															
1	AXIS BANK FOUNDATION	36,71,494	16,32,83,953	12,48,112	16,35,32,065	14,34,94,933	1,23,99,702	15,58,54,235	76,77,339	32,20,100	-	-	-	-	81,28,274
2	HCL FOUNDATION	(9,06,485)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(9,06,485)	-
3	AZIM PREMJI PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES PRIVATE LIMITED	9,88,44,327	9,48,72,000	43,61,611	9,91,33,611	9,70,40,105	59,13,407	10,29,53,513	(38,19,902)	35,05,866	-	-	-	9,15,18,839	
4	AXIS BANK LIMITED	1,68,76,796	6,17,96,983	11,00,788	6,28,97,771	5,81,74,052	12,25,287	5,93,89,339	34,98,433	-	-	-	-	2,03,25,228	
5	FANGZIA ECOTECHNIETYS PRIVATE LIMITED	61,33,699	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61,33,699	
6	THE DILEEP MATWAI NATURE CONSERVATION TRUST	17,02,008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,02,008	
7	BHARAT RURAL LIVELIHOODS FOUNDATION	2,26,977	27,39,582	14,500	27,54,052	26,70,608	1,73,987	28,44,595	(90,513)	-	-	-	-	1,36,464	
8	ILC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED	34,53,486	1,04,48,400	6,525	1,04,54,975	1,31,87,473	6,30,012	1,38,17,482	(33,62,507)	65,500	-	-	-	25,479	
9	THE NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	29,00,548	12,09,895	1,251	12,11,146	5,05,559	99,025	6,84,584	3,26,562	-	-	-	-	15,99,294	
10	HINDUSTAN UNILEVER FOUNDATION	1,056	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,056	
11	SELF RELIANT INITIATIVES THROUGH JOINT ACTION (SRJA)	811	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	811	
12	SIR BAZAM TATA TRUST	(84,80,953)	8,84,56,000	35,17,135	9,09,73,135	1,84,24,426	35,50,554	2,09,74,980	6,99,98,155	30,237	-	-	-	6,14,96,965	
13	ITC LIMITED	(10,00,947)	97,81,000	31,085	97,92,085	88,26,329	6,49,197	94,75,278	3,16,359	17,350	-	-	-	(17,79,932-51)	
14	ITC RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST	4,19,124	-	13,554	13,554	1,336	-	1,336	12,218	-	-	-	-	4,31,342	
15	CENTRE FOR MICROFINANCE	1,306	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,306	
16	KORHN NILEKANI	29,53,890	20,02,50,000	65,22,824	20,67,76,824	15,97,19,748	79,74,153	16,76,93,921	3,90,78,903	51,094	-	-	-	4,19,81,699	
17	DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY - WAMP PROJECTS	1,54,413	-	284	284	-	-	-	284	-	-	-	-	1,54,697	
18	AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	12,55,853	5,63,097	34,722	5,97,829	5,45,319	1,07,921	6,53,240	(55,411)	-	-	-	-	2,55,321	
19	GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH	4,05,185	-	6,614	6,614	-	-	-	6,614	-	-	-	-	55,790	
20	GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT	5,973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,973	
21	GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA	8,49,729	18,00,000	4,725	18,04,725	11,11,687	56,438	11,68,115	6,26,610	99,474	-	-	-	8,37,899	
22	GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN	22,44,871	-	-	-	-	1,239	1,239	(1,239)	-	-	-	-	21,97,999	
23	HRD FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED	(35,358)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(35,358)	
24	985 FOUNDATION INDIA	2,80,519	-	4,699	4,699	-	-	-	4,699	-	-	-	-	2,85,218	
25	THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE	1,22,350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,22,350	
26	SAY TREES ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST	11,19,846	-	-	-	-	772	2,73,373	(2,71,373)	-	-	-	-	8,46,477	
27	CARING FRIENDS (BPAFL)	2,19,225	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,19,225	
28	THE HABITATS TRUST	12,664	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,664	
29	HFPC BANK LTD.	3,299	11,40,12,683	-	11,40,12,683	10,60,61,377	76,70,071	11,37,31,448	2,81,235	3,38,287	-	-	-	(13,774)	
30	THE GREEN INDIAN STATES TRUST	53,457	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,457	
31	INDIOLA GRAPHICS PVT. LIMITED	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	
32	NAGALAND FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT SOCIETY	17,29,313	52,45,338	1,238	52,46,575	48,11,462	2,46,817	50,58,279	1,88,296	-	-	-	-	19,17,409	
33	GREEN INFRA WHO ENERGY LIMITED	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
34	L. ORIAL INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	(300)	2,17,16,400	44,896	2,17,61,296	1,65,56,059	4,20,626	1,69,76,685	47,84,610	-	-	-	-	47,84,310	
35	BALAJI FINANCE LTD.	56,41,595	2,00,00,000	1,05,616	2,01,05,616	2,01,71,209	1,04,298	2,02,76,007	(1,70,391)	-	-	-	-	71,304,37	
36	EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYABILITY FOUNDATION (EFT)	(98,149)	98,149	-	98,149	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
37	SHRIHANMANGAL CREDIT CAPITAL PVT. LTD	54,560	-	-	-	-	54,560	54,560	(54,560)	-	-	-	-	-	
38	INDUSIND BANK LIMITED	1	1,32,88,000	1,243	1,32,89,243	1,23,29,060	9,50,076	1,32,79,136	10,107	9,500	-	-	-	608	
39	IMPACT FOUNDATION INDIA	32,80,000	-	13,176	13,176	32,87,119	947	32,88,066	(32,74,890)	-	-	-	-	5,110	
40	A.P.Z. CHANDRA FOUNDATION	9,00,000	9,20,000	-	9,20,000	18,19,693	107	18,20,000	(9,00,000)	-	-	-	-	-	
41	INTEREST ON CORPUS	12,03,15,116	-	15,83,19,517	15,83,19,517	7,04,88,276	4,23,06,850	11,27,95,146	4,35,24,371	71,70,986	-	-	-	15,86,68,501	
42	FES SUPPORT PROJECT	2,96,91,801	-	27,91,369	27,91,369	14,93,773	1,54,581	16,48,334	11,43,035	1,05,500	-	-	-	3,43,87,084	
43	COVID 19 RELIEF ACTIVITIES	2,09,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,09,200	
44	COVID 19 RELIEF ACTIVITIES	95,91,553	-	64,08,245	64,08,245	54,55,305	1,81,021	56,36,326	7,71,918	-	-	-	-	2,09,200	
45	COVID 19 RELIEF ACTIVITIES	30,48,13,870	80,94,61,479	18,34,53,787	99,29,15,266	74,64,18,468	8,38,71,698	83,03,40,166	16,25,55,100	1,46,03,674	82,11,730	(10,01,339)	-	1,03,63,471	
(b) Foreign Contributions															
(i) Agencies not covered under FCRA															
45	INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE	(20,69,943)	62,32,166	-	62,32,166	40,70,085	39	40,70,104	21,62,062	-	-	-	-	92,119	

SCHEDULE 4.1 - DONOR WISE / PROJECTWISE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL - MARCH 31, 2025

Sl. No.	Agency Name	INCOME					EXPENDITURES					Non Recurring Expenses incurred during the year	Unspent Fund Returned to Donor	Written-off/Written-back	In Balance As on 31.03.2025
		Opening Balance As on 1.4.2024	Fund received during the year	Interest and Other Income	Total Income during the year	Programme Expenditures	Administration Expenses	Total Expenses incurred during the year	Excess of (Expenditure)/ Income over Expenditure incurred during the year	H (F+G)	I (E-H)				
(ii) Agencies covered under FCRA															
(a) Agencies covered under FCRA															
46	INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE	4,19,293	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,19,293
47	INTERNATIONAL CORPUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE SEASIDE TROPICS (ICRSAT)	5,84,034	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,84,034	
48	INTERPRETING UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF FUTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN)	22,60,789	1,29,70,450	1,03,697	1,30,74,147	1,01,68,797	40,696	1,02,09,493	28,44,654	-	-	-	-	51,25,443	
Total (i)															
		11,94,174	1,92,02,616	1,03,697	1,93,06,313	1,42,38,862	40,735	1,42,79,597	50,26,716	-	-	-	-	52,17,561	
(b) Agencies covered under FCRA															
49	DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FOR INTERNATIONAL ZUSAMMENARBEIT GGE GMBH (GERMANY)	72,70,942	-	2,60,089	2,60,089	-	-	-	2,60,089	-	-	-	-	75,31,031	
50	FORD FOUNDATION	52,64,525	-	-	-	44,45,550	8,18,975	52,64,525	(52,64,525)	-	-	-	-	-	
51	FES FOUNDATION INDIA	4,17,805	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,17,805	
52	ITC LIMITED	28,69,229	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,69,229	
53	SAY TREES ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST	5,95,520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,95,520	
54	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	(8,63,115)	35,70,661	12,951	35,84,612	8,12,464	84,459	8,96,923	26,87,689	-	-	-	-	18,24,574	
55	SOUTH ASIA RURAL RECONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (SARMA) INDIA	14,48,078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,48,078	
56	LOT VENTURE PHILANTHROPY FOUNDATION	2,20,66,025	3,45,95,215	14,14,343	3,60,09,588	2,98,71,756	3,87,602	3,03,59,359	57,50,199	-	-	-	-	2,78,16,234	
57	THE SKILL FOUNDATION	-	12,52,800	2,787	12,55,587	-	2,216	2,216	12,53,351	-	-	-	-	12,53,351	
58	THE LUCILLE FOUNDATION	88,73,421	1,40,78,500	5,26,102	1,66,04,602	1,82,60,714	38,67,483	2,21,28,197	(55,23,923)	7,63,401	-	-	-	5,86,425	
59	INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION	11,761	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,761	
60	THE PARADISE FOUNDATION	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
61	MELGEO FOUNDATION	1,40,15,816	2,06,80,863	1,80,991	2,08,61,834	2,50,91,601	57,53,813	3,48,45,414	(1,39,83,560)	-	-	-	-	32,256	
62	STITCHING IDEA FOUNDATION	1,23,59,804	1,32,74,913	8,62,354	1,41,37,267	61,73,258	3,62,450	65,35,708	76,01,559	21,400	-	-	-	1,99,39,962	
63	WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY	13,322	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,322	
64	CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION AMERICA INC.	-	2,29,81,460	5,82,003	2,35,63,963	22,04,044	5,96,474	27,60,518	2,08,03,445	-	-	-	-	2,08,03,445	
65	NATWEST GROUP PLC.	2,01,83,944	-	8,06,249	8,06,249	45,43,558	3,85,705	49,29,263	(41,23,014)	-	-	-	-	1,60,60,930	
66	NATWEST DIGITAL SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	-	34,54,816	-	34,54,816	33,30,957	1,28,097	34,59,054	(4,238)	-	-	-	-	(4,238)	
67	THE WOHANITY FOUNDATION	14,84,427	79,53,811	77,084	80,30,895	53,09,524	20,381	53,29,905	27,00,990	-	-	-	-	41,85,417	
68	THE ROTARY CLUB OF CARITOL HILL FOUNDATION	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119	
69	FRANK WATER	3,80,111	-	-	-	3,80,093	18	3,80,111	(3,80,111)	-	-	-	-	0	
70	STITCHING THE BELT INSTITUTE FOR WATER EDUCATION	-	1,54,484	-	1,54,484	1,08,018	-	1,08,018	46,466	-	-	-	-	46,466	
71	STITCHING ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION	85,46,773													

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

SCHEDULE 14: NOTES ON ACCOUNTS:

1. The Society accepts grants/donation from donor agencies towards implementing programmes on ecological restoration, strengthening community institutions and improving rural livelihoods. These grants along with interest earned, if any are to be spent in accordance with guidance of donors' agencies. The entire grants realized are accounted as income. The unspent balances are carried forward to the next year and spent in accordance with the terms of grant.

2. During the implementation of development projects, the Society facilitates the mobilisation of significant resources from various government schemes, NABARD, and community contributions. These funds channeled directly to the village institutions or contribution of village institutions or its members do not impact the Society's accounts financially. This approach aligns with the Society's objective of empowering local communities to independently engage with development programmes and manage restoration and development activities. The Society's administrative and support costs related to these facilitation efforts are accounted for as part of its expenditure.

3. The Society has entered into an agreement with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), a body corporate constituted by an Act of Parliament called the National Dairy Development Board Act 1987 and an Institutional Member of Board of Governors of the Society, to provide technical support & to act as a pure agent for establishment of 60 KWp Rooftop Solar PV System at the premises of the society in Anand, Gujarat. Under this agreement, FES has paid Rs. 38,66,000.00 to NDDB. Out of this, technical service fees of Rs. 1,47,603.00 along with cost of 60 KWp Rooftop Solar PV System Rs. 30,03,257.00 is booked during the year. As per the books of accounts, an amount of Rs. 8,28,054.00, including interest of Rs.1,10,412.00 on the periodical balance fund during the agreement period is receivable as on 31st March 2025 from NDDB. FES has also entered in an agreement with NDDB for technical support & to act as a pure agent for the construction of new office space at its premises in Anand, Gujarat. Under this agreement, FES has paid an advance of Rs. 1,10,10,000.00, including Technical Service Fees of Rs. 5,16,871.00 to NDDB during the year. The Technical Service Fees has been booked as Work-in-Progress in the books of accounts.

4. The agencies of the United Nations, and other international agencies and organizations notified by the Central Government to be not covered by the definition of 'foreign source', under section 2(1)(j)(ii) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and amendments thereof are shown under Foreign Contribution as Agencies not covered under FCRA, separately in Donor wise/ Project wise Income and Expenditure Account (Ref. Schedule 4.1(b)).

5. The society has written back Program Fund liability of Rs. 45,78,006.78 of previous years, since there had been no claim from the concerned donors to date. The written back amount has been reflected as "Written-off/Written-back" in a separate column (Refer Schedule 4.1). Program Fund receivable of previous years Rs.9,20,258.65 have been written off, since these are not expected to receive from the concerned donors. The written off amount has been reflected as "Written-off/Written-back" in a separate column (Refer Schedule 4.1). During the year, the Society has refunded Rs. 82,11,730.27 unspent fund of previous years to the donors. These are shown as "Unspent Fund Returned to donors" in a separate column (Refer Schedule 4.1).

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

6. The Institutional Overheads represents the amount of expenses provided and agreed by the donors, proportionate to the amounts spent, for spending on organizational overheads.

7. Corresponding figures of the previous year have been regrouped wherever necessary to make them comparable with the figures of the current year.

As per report of even date

For Borkar & Muzumdar
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No: 101569W

Place: Mumbai
Date: 27.06.2025

Devang Vaghani
Partner



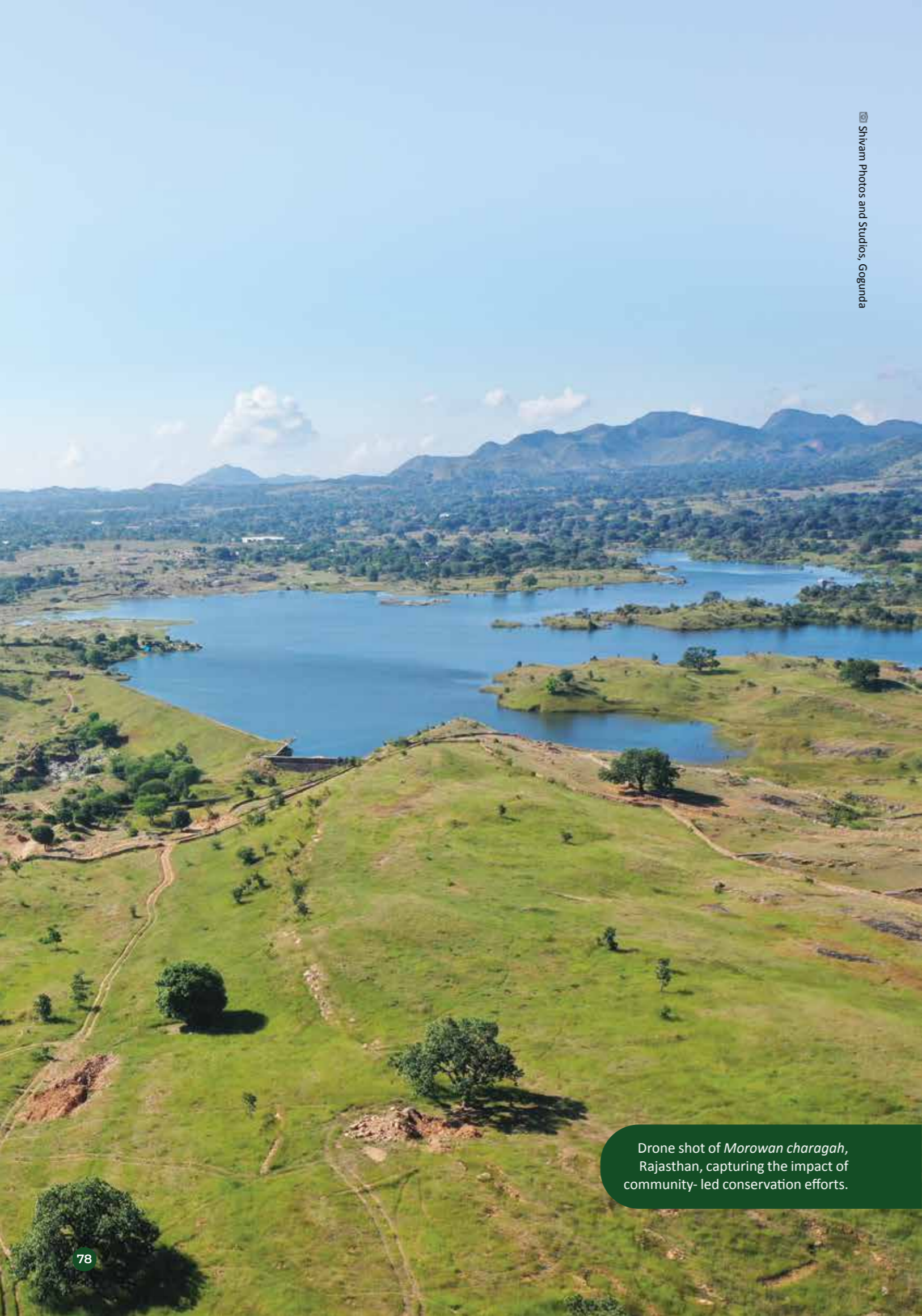
Place: Anand
Date: 27.06.2025

Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar
Chairperson

Subrata Kumar Singh
Executive Director

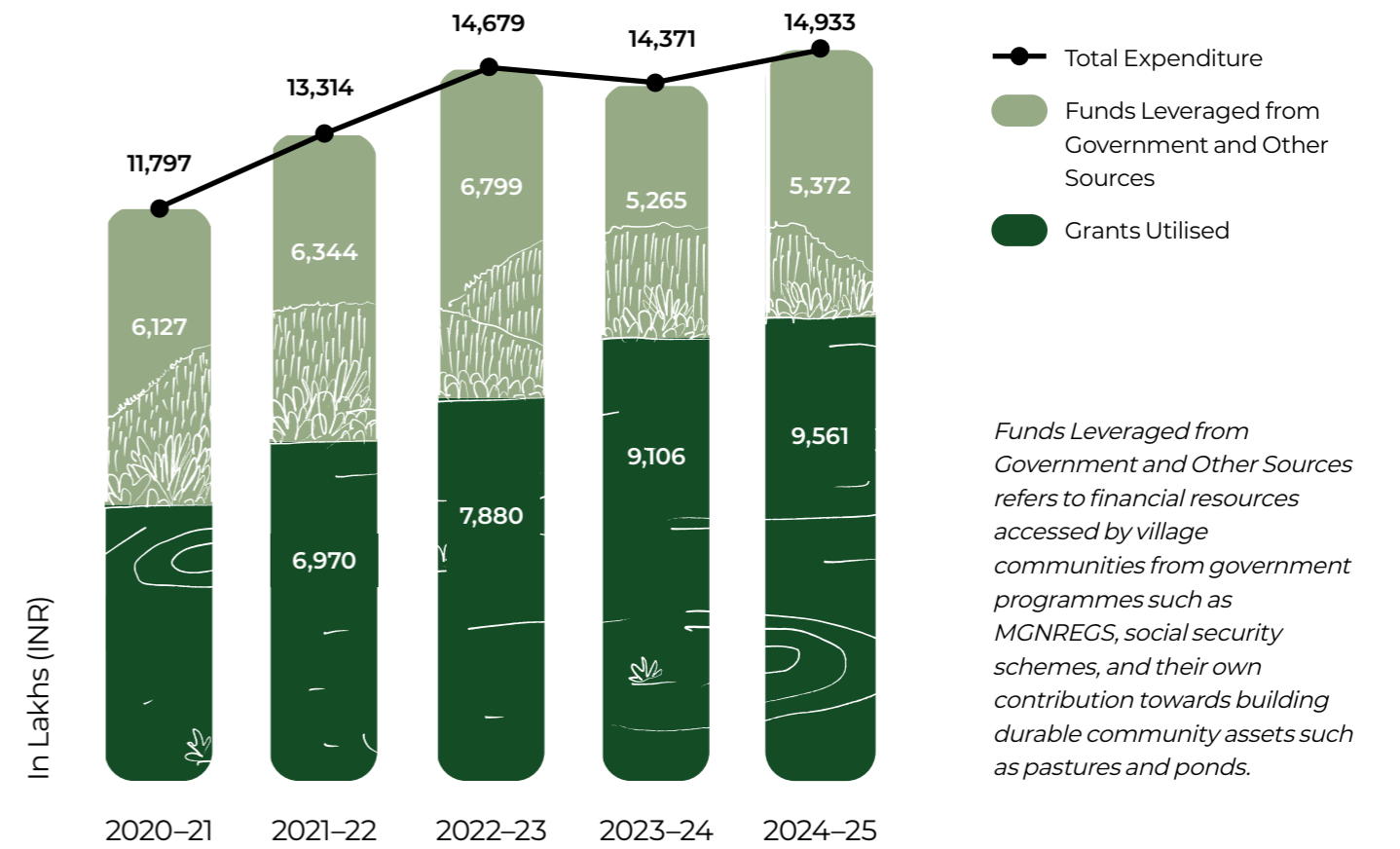


Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

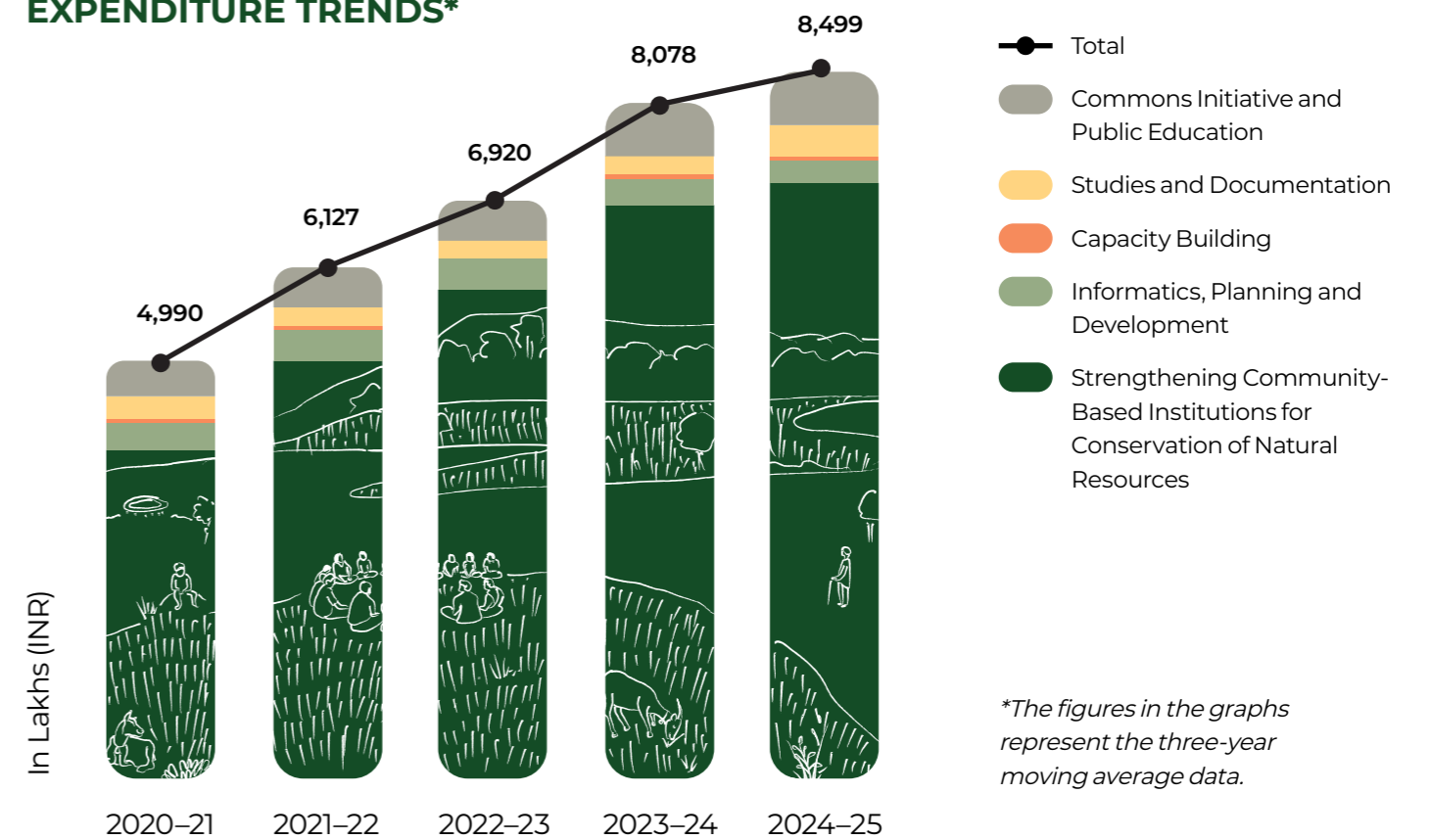


Drone shot of Morowan charagah, Rajasthan, capturing the impact of community-led conservation efforts.

FUNDS USED AND LEVERAGED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS*



EXPENDITURE TRENDS*



Funding Partners

While the numbers tell a story, the more profound successes lie in the qualitative, enduring shifts we have achieved, changing perceptions, reimagining shared spaces, and inspiring people and institutions to invest their time and attention in improving governance of Commons.

We are grateful for our funders' strategic support and unwavering commitment to our shared vision, which has enabled better community-led management of Commons across the country. Thank you for your trust and collaboration, which inspires us to continue making a meaningful impact.

- A** A.T.E. Chandra Foundation
Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA)
Axis Bank Foundation (ABF)
Axis Bank Limited (ABL)
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives Private Limited
- B** Bajaj Finance Ltd.
Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF)
- C** Charities Aid Foundation America
- D** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Directorate of Horticulture (Government of Odisha)
- E** Education For Employability Foundation (E2F)
- F** Ford Foundation
Frank Water
- G** Government of Andhra Pradesh
Government of Gujarat
Government of Odisha
Government of Rajasthan
- H** HDFC Bank Ltd.
- I** Impact Foundation India
IndusInd Bank Limited
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
ITC Limited
- L** LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation
LIC Housing Finance Limited
L'Oréal India Private Limited
- M** Mulago Foundation
- N** Nagaland Forest Management Project Society
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
Natwest Digital Services India Private Limited
Natwest Group Plc.
- R** Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies
- S** Say Trees Environmental Trust
Shubhamangal Credit Capital Private Ltd
Sir Ratan Tata Trust
Skoll Foundation
Stichting Ihe Delft Institute For Water Education
Stichting Ikea Foundation
- T** The Lucille Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
The Womanity Foundation

In Mala ka Kheda village, Rajasthan, flocks of Baya Weavers (*Ploceus philippinus*) are now frequenting local charagahs. The increase in population of these birds is a direct result of local communities actively restoring degraded common lands through local grass seed propagation and protection, making these lands a suitable habitat, providing ample food and water for these winged creatures.



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Knowledge and Technology Partners

Knowledge exchange and application of context-specific tools and technology play a critical role in scaling up efforts around community-led conservation and governance of Commons. Facilitating co-creation of knowledge products and tools for nature conservation and ensuring their accessibility to all stakeholders has the immense potential to improve rural resilience. Engaging with and learning from research bodies, individuals, institutions, and think tanks improves access to innovative and informed solutions. These collaborations enhance rigour in on-ground action, while also building a robust evidence base to achieve greater scale and impact.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Advanced Center for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM) | 30 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati |
| 2 Alliance Bioversity International-CIAT | 31 Indian Institute of Technology, Bhilai (IIT Bhilai) |
| 3 ARCH-Vahini | 32 Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi) |
| 4 Arghyam | 33 Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai (IIT Mumbai) |
| 5 Arid Communities and Technologies (ACT) | 34 Indian School of Business (ISB) |
| 6 Arizona State University (ASU) | 35 Intellectap |
| 7 Asar Social Impact Advisors (Asar) | 36 International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) |
| 8 Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) | 37 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) |
| 9 Azim Premji University (APU) | 38 International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) |
| 10 Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS Pilani), Hyderabad | 39 International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) |
| 11 Boston College | 40 International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) |
| 12 Cadasta Foundation | 41 IPE Global Limited (India) |
| 13 Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) | 42 Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (JSGP) |
| 14 Central University of Rajasthan | 43 Kalpavriksh |
| 15 Centre for Policy Research (CPR) | 44 Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) |
| 16 Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) | 45 LANDMARK - ILC |
| 17 Centre for Society and Ecology (CenSE) | 46 Landstack |
| 18 CEPT University, Ahmedabad | 47 Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg |
| 19 Collaborating for Resilience (CoRe) | 48 National Coalition for Natural Farming (NCNF) |
| 20 Columbia University | 49 National Foundation for India (NFI) |
| 21 Dakshin Foundation | 50 National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) |
| 22 Developing Ecosystems for Systemic Transformation and Adaptation (DESTA) | 51 National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR) |
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| 24 Geospatial Media & Communications | 53 Partnering Hope into Action Foundation (PHIA) |
| 25 German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) | 54 Radiant Earth Foundation |
| 26 Goa University | 55 Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) |
| 27 IIHMR University | |
| 28 India Biodiversity Portal (IBP) | |
| 29 India Natural Resource Economics and Management Foundation (INREM) | |

- 56 Shiv Nadar University
- 57 Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR)
- 58 Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Hyderabad
- 59 Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai
- 60 The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)
- 61 The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- 62 The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- 63 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- 64 United States Forest Service (USFS)
- 65 University of Colorado, Boulder
- 66 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 67 University of South Australia
- 68 Vrutti
- 69 Washington University in St. Louis
- 70 Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
- 71 World Resources Institute (WRI)-India

WE ARE MEMBERS OF

- 1 Alliance for the Conservation of Fresh Water Ecosystems
- 2 Common Ground Initiative
- 3 Ecological Restoration Alliance (ERA)
- 4 Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE)
- 5 Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA) Consortium
- 6 International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC)
- 7 International Land Coalition (ILC)
- 8 International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE)
- 9 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- 10 Promise of Commons Initiative
- 11 Rainfed Livestock Network (RLN)
- 12 Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN)
- 13 United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC)-Special Consultative Status
- 14 USFS NGO Network



Team

Our dedicated team builds deep connections with communities, government, and our partners, reshaping how Commons are perceived and protected. This creates a lasting impact rooted in diversity, inclusion, and participation, which drive our mission forward into the future.

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B Shaheen Sha
Bitra Sada Siva
Dhanasekaren V
E Sahadevan
G Sankar
G Subbi Reddy
Ganesh S Surpam
Girija Derangula
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Umesh Paliwal
Vaibhav U Dhongade
Veerendra S Rathore
Vinod Paliwal
Yashoneel Sharma

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Acronyms

This section brings together acronyms most frequently used in the report, to support quick reference.

CCA – Community Conserved Area

CFR – Community Forest Rights

CFRMC – Community Forest Resource Management Committee

CLART – Composite Landscape Assessment and Restoration Tool

CLM – Common Land Mapping

CSO – Civil Society Organisation

FES – Foundation for Ecological Security

FRA – Forest Rights Act

GEET – GIS Enabled Entitlement Tracking System

GPDP – Gram Panchayat Development Plan

GWMT – Groundwater Monitoring Tool

JFMC – Joint Forest Mangement Committee

MAP – Multi-Actor Platform

MFP – Minor Forest Produce

MGNREGS – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

MoU – Memorandum of Understanding

NCCAF – Nagaland Community Conserved Areas Forum

NDDB – National Dairy Development Board

NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation

NRM – Natural Resource Management

NTGCF – National Tree Growers' Cooperative Federation

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

SMC – Soil and Moisture Conservation

SPMU – State Project Monitoring Unit

UNDP – United Nations Development Program

VER – Village Ecological Register

VI – Village Institution

The collective efforts that began in 2006 in Sajjupalli village, Karnataka, gradually inspired neighbouring communities to take up similar initiatives. This supported restoration of the entire rocky Donnakonda range, proving that collective action and conservation know no boundaries.

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At first glance, the landscape in the photo may seem dry and barren—but it holds immense value for the local ecosystems. *Unt Katala*, also known as Indian Globe Thistle (*Echinops echinatus*), is a significant and resilient Commons produce, found in these dry, arid regions of Rajasthan. For generations, cattle and camel rearers have roasted and fed the fruits of *Unt Katala* to their dairy cattle and farm oxen, especially during the harsh winter months, knowing its ability to boost milk production and enhance strength of their livestock. Despite the challenge posed by its prickly spines, communities skillfully harvest the fruits without uprooting the plant, ensuring that it thrives year after year. This delicate balance of use and conservation is a powerful example of traditional knowledge sustaining both livelihoods and landscapes.

Kanji ka Guda Village, Rajasthan

