

Format for the 'Best Practices and Lessons Learnt' document

1. Background:

Biodiversity Action Plans (Village Micro Plans) were prepared through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) technique for villages covered under the GoI-UNDP-GEF Sindhudurg project to understand the livelihood options available for the local community, the infrastructure gaps and the effect of anthropogenic activities on coastal and marine biodiversity. This activity was conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). In order to mainstream biodiversity conservation into production sectors it may be necessary to address the issues pertaining to rural development of the coastal villages involving major infrastructure gaps, livelihood and human development through convergence of various development programs of GoI, GoM and other development agencies. The need assessment and preparation of Biodiversity Action Plans of these coastal villages following the principles of participatory rural planning while addressing biodiversity conservation issues, is thus the basic pre-requisite.

2. Technical parameters:

For preparation of PRA meetings were conducted in the respective villages wherein village information was collected like socio economic survey (including demographic data, current livelihood options), characteristics of area, infrastructure gaps and the effect of anthropogenic activities on coastal and marine biodiversity. To know the resource availability transect walk was conducted with the locals. Based on the information and with the help of villagers Village resource map was prepared. Compiled draft PRA report was made which included all above mentioned information as well as complaints, suggestions, expectations of local peoples including their views on strategy for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity. Draft PBR was presented in front of village for suggestions and corrections were made accordingly.

Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) was also conducted in respective villages. RRA in the context of the Sindhudurg Biodiversity Project is primarily an exercise to make an assessment of the most appropriate activity which would address biodiversity concerns and critical development gaps on geographical basis with a cluster based approach or a user group approach or a user group approach spread across several vilages/ taluk/ distric. It is also an important step in the formulation of a village level "Biodiversity Action Plan" (BAP), through a more elaborate PRA exercise. The RRA exercise based on focal group discussion and its acceptance by the gramsabha. RRA also includes identification of feasible activity with ranking in the order of likely beneficial impact on the project in terms of critical development gaps and biodiversity concerns. With the help of RRA appropriate geographical cluster or user groups were identified.

3. **Impact:** In terms of outcome, highlight the impact (qualitative and quantitative, as relevant) that the project has had on livelihoods, conservation and other areas. Case studies and direct feedback from the beneficiaries can be included in here.

Under this initiative 78 coastal villages in Malvan Taluka and 58 villages in Devgad Taluka were surveyed. Based on the study conducted by TERI with the help of PRA and RRA technique report was made in which infrastructure gaps and additional livelihood options were identified. Depending upon the rating and demand activities were undertaken.

Infrastructure gaps like rainwater harvesting structures, mobile toilets, gazebo's, dustbin installation for waste management, fish drying platform, slopping ramp etc... were undertaken.

Livelihood activities like crab farming, mussel and oyster farming, Sustainable creek based and marine tourism, hospitality management, advance techniques of rice cultivation along with organic manure preparation like vermicompost, apiculture, ornamental fish rearing and breeding, cage culture, demonstration of food products, green rating system for Bread and breakfast units, sustainable marine fishing practices, etc...

4. **Potential for replication:**

5. **Lessons learnt:**

The initiative helped us to identify current natural resources, gaps in infrastructure as well as biodiversity conservation activities. Additional livelihood options were identified and implemented prior to the feasibility study undertaken. Depending upon the need infrastructure gaps were fulfilled.