

Moving towards Participatory Forest Management in India

Davao

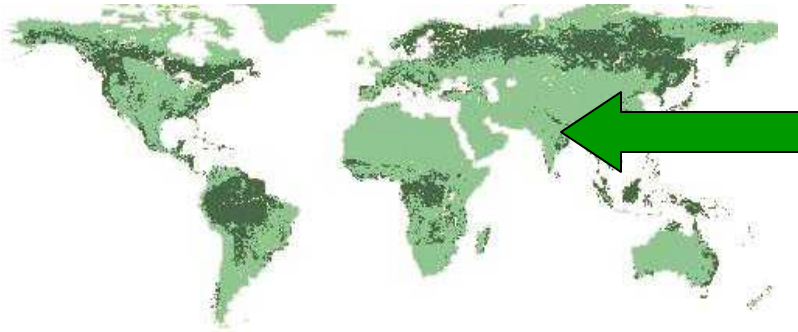
10th December, 2004

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Location of India



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About my Country

★ India is 3rd largest country in Asia

★ Indian Union consists of 29 States and 6 Union Territories

★ Over 1000 Million Population

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Forest Cover

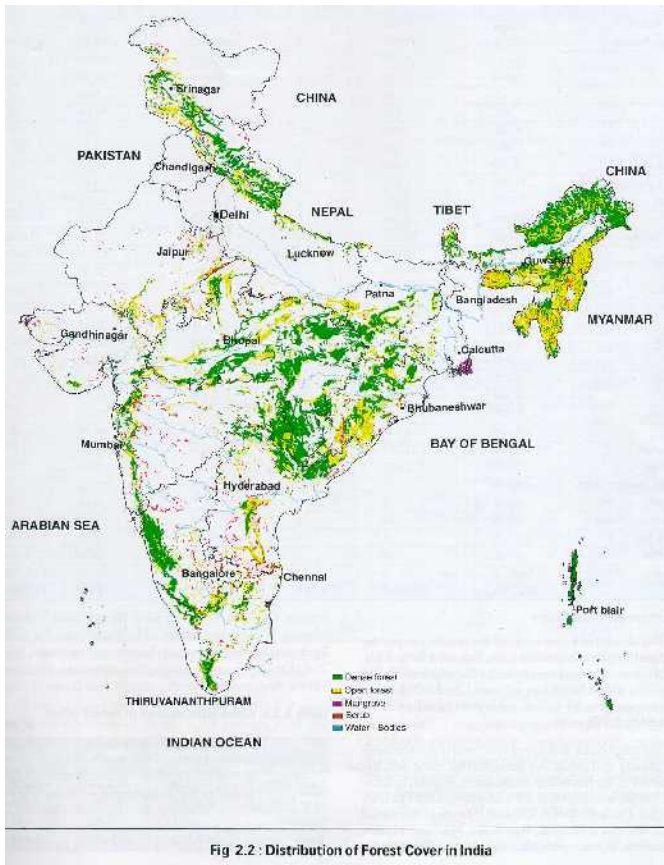
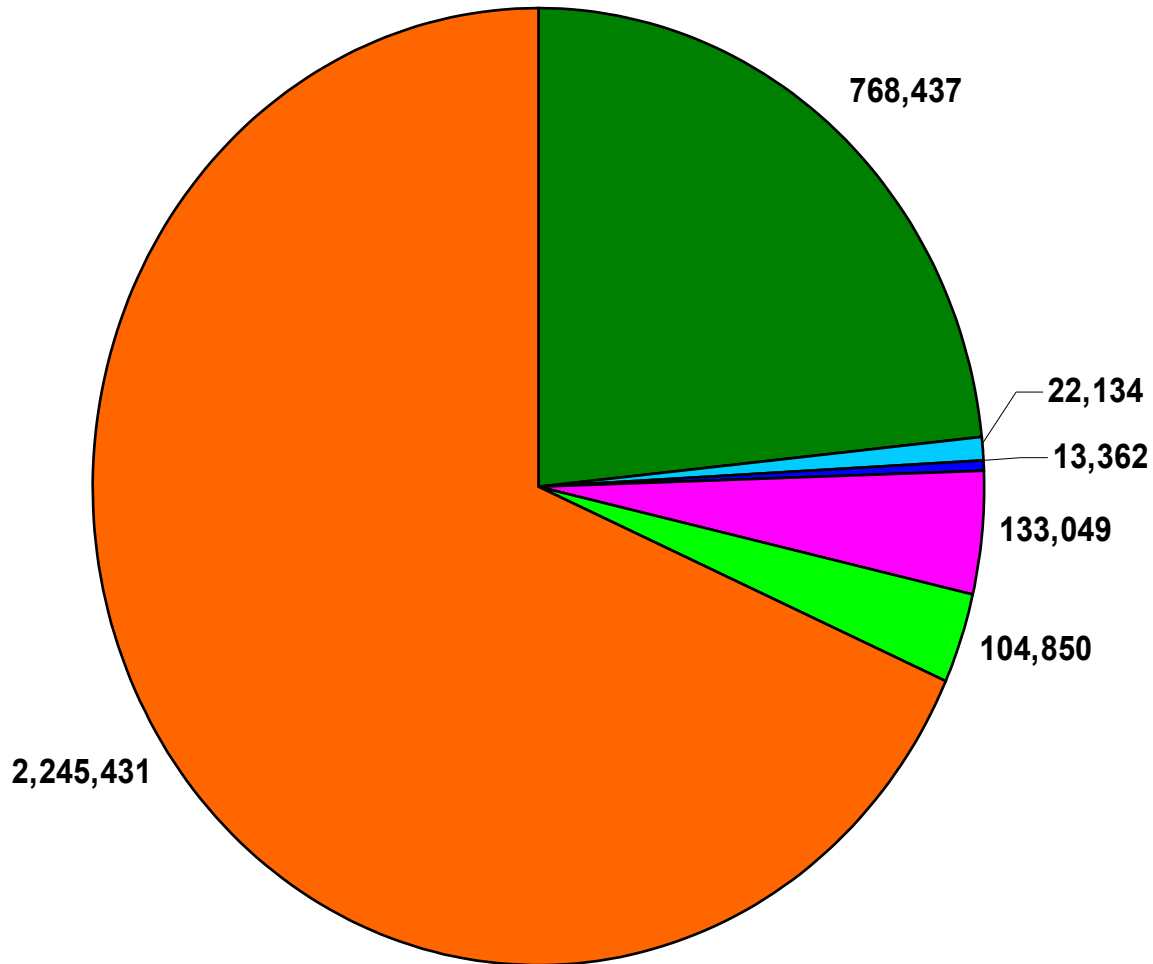


Fig 2.2 : Distribution of Forest Cover in India

- ★ **Percentage of Land Mass Under Forest Cover: (1995 assessment)**
 - **World: 26.6%**
 - **Asia: 16.4%**
 - **India: 15.7%**



Distribution of Geographical Area



■ Forest Area	■ Wetlands & Water bodies	■ River & River Beds
■ Cold Desert & Snow	■ Non-recorded Forest Area	■ Culturable Non-Forest Area



Forest Cover

- * Total Geographical Area: 328726300 hecets.
- * Recorded Forest Area: 76843600 hecets.
(23.38% of Geographic Area)
- * Actual Forest Cover: 67553800 hecets.

20.55% of Geographical Area

87.9% of Recorded forest area



Forest & People

- ★ India Consists of 587274 villages
 - Villages close to Forests: 170379 (29%)
 - Area of Forest: 32198305 ha. (41.9%)
 - Population: 146777463 (7.02%)



Participatory Forest Management

Policy Context in India



Social Forestry Project, 1984

- ★ Minimising pressure over Reserve forest by creating woodlots in wastelands to meet fuel and fodder need
- ★ Focus on non-forest areas



National Forest Policy, 1988

Environmental security, local subsistence and livelihood forestry requirements of resource poor communities, customary rights & interests of forest user and inclusion of local community groups in forest protection and management.



JFM Circular, 1990

- ★ Official circular issued by MoEF, GoI to all States and Union Territories providing guidelines for the **'Involvement of Village Communities and Voluntary Agencies in the regeneration of degraded forests'**.

This led to adoption of JFM by different states in the country.



PESA, 1996

- ★ Extension of Panchayatiraj to Scheduled Areas Act
 - Conferring authority to Gram Sabha(All adult members in a Community) over management of natural resources; Land, Water, Forest(Particularly Minor Forest Products)



Revised guidelines for JFM, 2000

- ★ Extension of JFM to well-stocked instead of only degraded forests
- ★ Specified women's representation (Min. 33% in EC, 50% in GB)
- ★ Uniform structure – All FPCs called as JFM committees and registered as Societies



- ★ Memorandum of Understanding, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities signed between the State Governments and the committees.
- ★ Registration of self-initiated forest protection committees under JFM framework
- ★ Decentralised preparation and approval of micro-planning



Revised JFM Guideline, 2002

- * JFM committees considered as the basic forest management unit**
- * MoU signed between FD and JFMC**
- * Strengthening relationship between JFMCs and PRIs**
- * Capacity building for the management of NTFPs**



Progress of JFM in India

(As on 10.9.2003)

	Villages	Area (in Ha.)
Actual	170379	32198305
JFM	84632 (49.7%)	17331955 (53.8%)

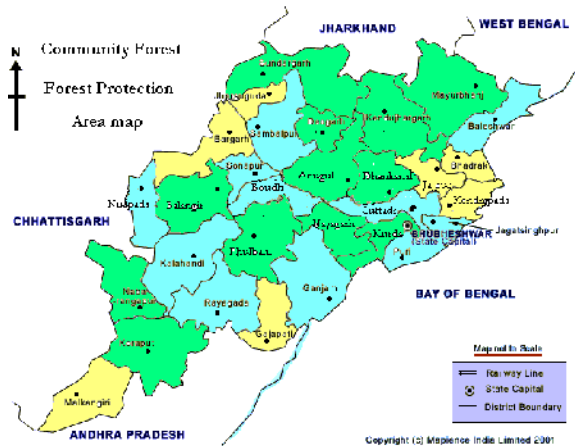


CFM vs. State Perspectives

Experiences from Orissa

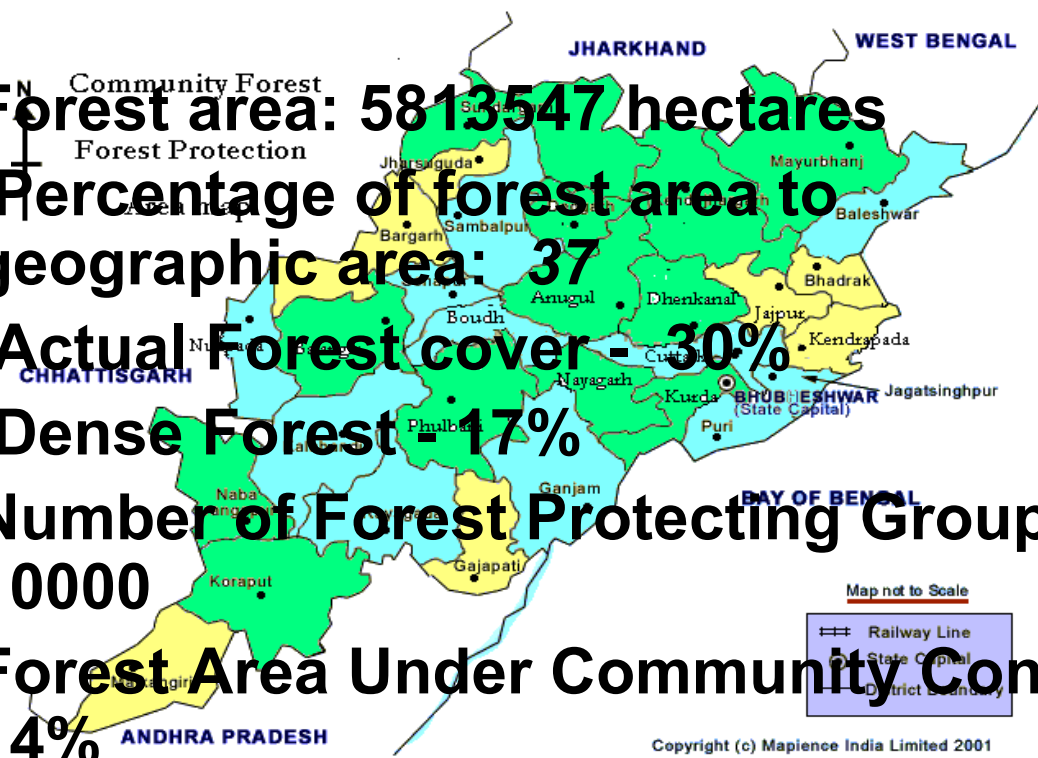


About Orissa



- ★ Geographical area: *15578200 hectares*
- ★ Population : Approx. 37 million
- ★ Percentage of S .T. Population- 22.1%
- ★ Percentage of S.C. Population – 16.5%
- ★ Type of tribes: 62

- ★ **Forest area: 5813547 hectares**
- ★ **Percentage of forest area to geographic area: 37%**
- ★ **Actual Forest cover - 30%**
- ★ **Dense Forest - 17%**
- ★ **Number of Forest Protecting Groups: 10000**
- ★ **Forest Area Under Community Control: 14%**



Guiding Principles of CFM

- ★ It is a democratic, decentralised and inclusive process to carry everybody along.
- ★ It is based on localised rules and management practices to meet local needs.
- ★ Its institutions are based on local socio-cultural traditions, practices and institutions.



State Policies

- ★ 1988: Govt. Resolution encouraging involvement of communities in the protection of Reserved Forests
- ★ 1990: Govt. Resolution was implemented that provided space for communities involvement in the protection of Reserved Forests and Protected Forests

Communities granted certain concessions in the matter of meeting their bonafied requirements of firewood and small timber



- ★ **1993: Joint Forest Management**
Communities treated as equal partner of FD in the task of regeneration and restoration of degraded forests
- ★ 1996: Declaration of forest under community protection as 'Village Forest'



JFM: How Participatory?

- ★ Decisions taken by the communities need ratification by FD.
- ★ Diverse, flexible local institutions replaced by uniform institutional arrangement.
- ★ Rigid, unilaterally defined benefit sharing formula.



- ★ No space for diverse local livelihood needs and forest values.
- ★ Technical management has to conform to the FD's vision of a good forest.
- ★ FD has the right to dissolve an EC.
- ★ FD plays the lead role in deciding the management objectives and formulating a plan to achieve them.



People's Voices

CFM vs. JFM

- ★ “Where was the FD all these years? We protected “our” forest on our own.., how come the FD comes along now and offers to ‘*jointly* manage’ this”.
- ★ JFM takes away 50% (from what is rightfully theirs) instead of giving 50%.



- ★ Local communities are only used as strategy to help the FD protect forests in a cost-effective manner.
- ★ JFM seeks to take them back to a situation of dependence on the FD by curtailing decision making at community level.



- ★ Forests is not a crop, and should not have share-cropping principles applying to it.
- ★ Benefit sharing based on a percentage share in timber/ timber incomes reflect the focus on revenue/ timber still being the predominant FD/ State view.



Alternate Community Rights Regime for Forests in Orissa

Principle 1.

Give *primacy to local needs over national needs*; and seek to take steps in the direction of establishing *forests as a local resource*.

Protect the customary and ethical rights of local population over forests. More specifically the emphasis should be on *community needs*.



Principle 2.

Environmental stability and services and local needs fulfillment should be the primary objectives of forest management and revenue objectives for the State should take a back seat.



Principle 3.

Locally emerging user/management groups should be the basic unit for management of most of the forests including Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks, only with a few exceptions of ecologically fragile regions.



Principle 4.

Local communities that take up protection and management responsibility should be viewed upon as Trustees and have clear management rights for managing the forests in an ecologically sustainable fashion on behalf of larger human community.



Principle 5.

Revenue interests of the State should be secondary and should not come in the way of fair value and livelihood to primary gatherers.



Principle 6.

Community institutions that take up management of forests should have representation of all sections and should have institutional mechanisms to ensure that interests of weaker sections, including women are reflected in forest management.

