



MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS

SOME MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Biodiversity is not only restricted to large tropical forests but even occurs in managed forests, secondary forests, agroecosystems and even farmlands. Therefore conservation of biodiversity (floral and faunal) requires a proper concept of participatory management strategies suitable to the region.

Following are some management options that could help integrating conservation with development of local communities.

- Link government development programmes with local development programmes such as JFM and SFM.
- Give priority to local small-scale activities viz., craft, handloom etc.

It is now realized that plans for management of forests must involve participation of local people to promote understanding, mutual adjustment and community self-discipline as prevalent in earlier traditional management systems. This point has been reflected in Article 8 and Article 10 (C) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). For balancing such competing demands the suggestions for management of forests of Chhota-udepur are given below.

A). MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR CONSERVATION OF FLORAL DIVERSITY AND RESTORATION OF HABITAT

- Maintenance of habitat in its natural state.
- Human activities should not effect the floral diversity of the area.
- The hilly terrain should not be exposed to any future economic exploitations.
- Rare forest species should be given priority for protection.
- Degraded areas should be reforested intensively with indigenous forest tree species rather than the monoculture plantation.
- Avoid plantation of exotic species like Eucalyptus, Acacia spp., in forests.
- Encroachment of local people into degraded areas and over-grazing by livestock should not be permitted.
- Grazing in forest areas with luxuriant vegetation should be strictly controlled.

The major forest areas in Chhota-udepur are inhabited by the tribal people. This suggests that they have been pioneers in conserving biodiversity of the area. Thus, when modern science looks to preserve biodiversity as a global heritage, it is necessary to scrutinize the management strategies adopted by indigenous people.

These tribals resist or adapt to outside pressures, internal demands and cultural changes. Hence following are some points that can be looked upon as options.

B). MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR INTERACTION WITH LOCAL INHABITANTS

- The basis of protecting the habitat must fulfill the day to day needs of tribal communities.
- Involve local inhabitants in the forest management plans so that they can be true care takers of their natural resources.
- The management plan be so framed so as to protect and conserve the cultural heritage and traditional lifestyles of the tribals.
- Responsibility of management should be co-ordinated with local panchayat, NGO's and local inhabitants.
- Management plan should be such that can focus on the needs of tribal communities, especially for water, improvement of livestock and veterinary support, better medical care for their security, assistance during drought, scarcity and lean periods, banking services or facilities to safeguard their earnings, educational opportunities to help improve living standards, need for nearby trading centers.
- Implementation of projects linking conservation and community development.
- Collection, processing and marketing of NTFP's should be all done by locals so that they can share maximum economical benefits.
- Introducing the concept of local botanical gardens and community herbaria.
- Spread the knowledge of conservation and preservation of natural resource through newsletters and publications in local languages.
- Workshops and training programmes for young generation of tribals.
- Promotion of arts and crafts, which are age old traditions of this local inhabitants.