

13: Manuvikasa

Name of Evaluators: Samir Stephan Kujur

Date of Field Visit: November 8-10, 2015

Project Title: Conservation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened species in fast degrading Betta Land through protection of species, plant enrichment and wetland creation in Siddapur Taluq of North Kananda District

GEF Thematic Area/s: Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Water and Land Degradation

SGP Funding: \$ 35369.05 (1US\$=INR 53.38)

Co-Financing: (if available disaggregated by in cash and in kind): \$ 1127443 (\$1051909 In cash and \$75533.91 in kind)

Project Objective: Enable actions by community, forest department and NGOs for the protection and conservation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened plant species through upgradation of fast degrading Betta Land

Brief Project Description: The project area is located in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats, which has global significance. *Betta lands* are in the heart of the Western Ghats and Northern part of the Malanad Kodagu Corridor which come under CEPF investment priority area. This entire *Betta Land* is dominated by Moist Deciduous and Evergreen Forest Type. The total area of the *Betta Land* in North Kannada District is more than sixty thousand hectares. *Betta Lands* (Leafy Forest) legally belongs to Forest Department and handed over to communities for collection of bark, leaves and NTFPs. Reckless commercial composting with large scale and continuous clearing of forest floors also pose threat to *Soppina Bettas*. These Leafy forests are being converted into grazing lands where demand for grass has increased. Few farmers have encroached such *Betta Lands* and converted them for horticulture plantation and mining activities. These activities are affecting the flora and fauna of the area.

SGP supported project aimed at working for regeneration of *Betta Lands* through plant enrichment, control soil erosion and rain water harvesting for conservation of globally significant species like *Hopea ponga*, *Saraca asoca* and *Vateria indica*. It is also working towards improvement of NTFPs and fruit bearing trees in *Betta Lands* to improve food security of human and animal. The project is making efforts to reduce the pressure of communities on forest for fire wood through promotion of energy efficient chullas.

Overall Assessment: The project is rated as Satisfactory for its overall implementation (using 6 point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale i.e. Highly Satisfactory, Satisfactory, Moderately Satisfactory, Moderately Unsatisfactory, Unsatisfactory, Highly Unsatisfactory).

Strengths: (maximum 5)

- Manuvikasa is a local and grassroots level organization. It is well recognized by the local government, corporates, NGOs, financial institutions, research institutions in the region.
- It is a micro-finance based organization. The systems are well placed for monitoring of day-to-day activities. The interventions are credit-based, where members are linked to micro-insurance schemes for their safety and securities.
- The project has established the linkages with Deshpande Foundation, GIVE India, NABARD, College of Forestry, Agriculture University and KVK for leveraging of technical and financial resources.

Opportunities for Improvement: (maximum 5)

- The Western Ghats has globally significance for its ecosystem (i.e. Rare, Endangered and Threatened plant flora and fauna species), which require special attention.
- Looking at the topography and human habitation, SHG model looks quite complex and unsustainable (minimum of 10 members per SHG). The houses are spread over in a radius of 4-5 kilometers in villages.
- The project has proposed to have the plan for conservation of globally threatened species; however it lacks well documented and written Betta Land Development and Management Plan.

Recommendations:

These recommendations correspond to the opportunities for improvement described above.

- The project should give more attention on protection and conservation of identified Rare, Endangered and Threatened plant species.
- Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) should be formed and strengthened for achieving the better results.
- Site specific Betta Land Development and Management Plan should be prepared for management of Betta lands. Betta Users Group should be strengthened for proper execution of the Betta Land Development and Management Plan.



Community Managed Nursery



Model Plantation site in Village Kumbrikodla



Boutique / Ladies dress shop in village Kansur



SHG run Boutique / Ladies dress shop

Formats & Guidance for MTR Project Visit Stakeholder Consultations

Project Title and reference #13: Conservation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened species in fast degrading Betta Land through protection of species, plant enrichment and wetland creation in Siddapur Taluq of North Kannda District

GEF Focal Area (BD, CC, LD, SLM): Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Water and Land Degradation

Location of Project (State): 21 villages in Sirsi & Siddapur of North Kannda District

Project Objective (one sentence in your own words): Enable actions by community, forest department and NGOs for the protection and conservation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened plant species through up-gradation of fast degrading Betta Land

Where did you go/what did you see during your visit (e.g., visited 3 medicinal plant farms):

- Village Sannakheri-private tank (1)
- Village Khabgar- common tank (1)
- Village Kumbrikodla- Nursery (1), Plantation site (1)
- Village Gattikai- Agriculture field (1)
- Village Kansur- SHG run Ladies dress shop / boutique (1)
- Village Kodasur- Smokeless chullah (1)
- Village Kendigetota- Smokeless chullah (1)
- Village Kodgibale- SHG (1)

Table 1: Overview of Persons Visited and Brief Description of how they are Involved in the Project (fill this form in for each project visited)

Name of Person Visited	Gender (F/M)	How is this person involved in the project [^]	Contact info where available (Mobile & email address)
Shri Harishchandra P. Bhat	M	Settlor of the Trust	At Karjagi, P.O. Balur, Taluk- Siddapur, Uttara Kannada
Ganpati Bhat	M	Project Staff	At Karjagi, P.O. Balur, Taluk- Siddapur, Uttara Kannada
4 staff of Manuvikasa (Prasanna Bhat, Manjunath Hegde, Sandeep Amadallikar, Channappa Lamani)	M	Project Staff	At Karjagi, P.O. Balur, Taluk- Siddapur, Uttara Kannada
Yallamma H.	F	Project staff	At Karjagi, P.O. Balur, Taluk- Siddapur, Uttara Kannada
Sitaramaya	M	Beneficiary (tank)	Village Sannakheri
3 Villagers of Kumbrikodla (Deviki, Shalini and Malini)	F	Beneficiary (nursery)	Village Kumbrikodla
Rama	M	Beneficiary	Village Gattikai
2 villagers of Kansur (Annapurna and Lalita)	F	Beneficiary (Ladies dress shop / boutique)	Village Kansur
Gauri	F	Beneficiary (Smokeless chullah)	Village Kodasur
Name of Person Visited	Gender (F/M)	How is this person involved in the project [^]	Contact info where available (Mobile & email address)
Nagawini	F	Beneficiary (Smokeless chullah)	Village Kendigetota
5 villagers of Kodgibale (Sujatha, Kamashi, Nagmani Lalita and Savitri)	F	Beneficiary (SHG)	Village Kodgibale

[^](Project Staff, Beneficiary, Technical Advisor, Government employee, monitoring of project, etc..)

Table 2: Basic Facts (Ask the Project Coordinator and Project Accountant)

<p>What inputs is/was this project supposed to provide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of the villages, area and team meetings to develop common understanding of project. • Village Meetings and linking the women SHGs with activities. • Developing the systems and approach for the Activities with SD in mind • Development and procurement of 10000 NTFP and fruit bearing saplings nursery. Rs. 20 per saplings including watering and maintenance 12”X13” size • Development of tanks in at least 50 sites (One to two Guntas as per land availability) • Replication of the tanks and Chullas with SHGs • Promotion of 40 smokeless Chullas @ Rs. 8000 Per Chullas • Providing training to 200 Betta users on effective Betta management for one day including officials • Community led poultry farmers in the Region • Budding and Grafting in Raising small community nurseries • Agricultural Links created with Farmers • Educational Support Systems • Links and Partnerships • Kinetic Energy decentralized micro Hydels
<p>What inputs has the GEF project actually provided to date</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized 3 meetings, developed ideas, contacted with GPs and other lead farmers, women SHGs and selected 100 villages to start the program • Monthly meeting with SHGs. There are 300 SHGs @10 members in each SHG. • Developed the systems and approaches for sustainable management of tank and cook stoves / smokeless chullas. • Developed two community / SHG managed nurseries and raised 8600 plants • Assisted farmers in digging of 113 tanks in the project area. • Deshpande Foundation US \$127388.54 to widen the tanks digging activity and GIVE India helped in scaling up of 29 more tanks • Promoted 52 smokeless chullas @ Rs. 8000 per chullas (on loan basis) • Promoted 15 Betta Users Group and 127 members enrolled in the group. • Linkages with College of Forestry, Agriculture University, Banks, Deshpande Foundation, GIVE India and KVK
<p>Total percentage expended to date of assigned project budget</p>	<p>80%</p>
<p>How long has the project being going on (# months)</p>	<p>28 months</p>
<p>What percent of the project time period remains</p>	<p>11 months</p>
<p>Have there been any delays? If so, what are the reasons for the delays?</p>	<p>no-cost extension</p>

Is this the first SGP project this group has had? (Y/N) If no, how many other SGP projects have they had	Y
How did they find out about the SGP?	Website of UNDP/SGP

Table 3: Results (Ask the Intended Beneficiaries and the Project Coordinator)

In regards to their own situation, what changes are observed by them (the intended beneficiaries) comparing preproject situation to now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved financial status and social cohesiveness of families through promotion of SHGs Reduction in domestic activity time of women and fuel requirement through promotion of smokeless chullas
In regards to the environmental situation, what changes are observed by the beneficiaries comparing pre-project to now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water conservation by digging of tanks in the project area. Reduction of quantity of fuelwood through promotion of smokeless chullas. Betta land conservation, development through promotion of Betta Users Group
According to the beneficiaries, what are the 3 most important accomplishments of this project to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digging of tanks in the project area. Promotion and strengthening of Betta Users Group, SHGs and federation Promotion and demonstration of smokeless chullas
According to the beneficiaries, what are the 3 areas that could be further strengthened to make the project even more successful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation and strengthening of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) Promotion of Poultry Scaling up of smokeless chullas
Describe any differences in perception between your analysis and that provided by the beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project should give more focus on protection and conservation of identified Rare, Endangered and Threatened plant species

Table 4: Gender & Youth (Ask focus groups of women and youth and the Project Coordinator)

# women directly involved in the project	3000 (300 SHGs @ 10 members in each group)
# men directly involved in the project	127 (from 15 Betta User Groups)
# youth (under 20) directly involved in the project	-
# women in project decision-making positions	402 (392 SHG and Federation leaders and 10 community level resource person)
# men in project decision-making positions	25 (15 leaders of Betta User Groups and 10 community level resource person)
According to women, has project enhanced gender equality in any way? If so, how specifically?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of women SHGs and federation Promotion of smokeless chullas Promotion of community level nurseries
What do women suggest should change in the project to ensure they benefit even more	Promotion of poultry farming in the Region

Table 5: M&E (Ask the Project Coordinator)

How many times has the PMU visited this project	Once from CEE Delhi Office
---	----------------------------

If an NGO or other organization is involved, how many times have they visited	No
What modifications, if any, have been made to the project and why were these modifications deemed important	No

Table 6: Project Management (Ask the Project Coordinator and Project Accountant)

Have funds been disbursed to them on time	Yes
Have there been any issues? If so, describe.	No
Have they purchased any equipment? If so, have there been any issues?	Yes from the amount of co-financing (2 Earth movers)

Table 7: Strategic Partnerships (Ask the Project Coordinator and the intended beneficiaries)

What partnerships exist between the project and other projects & what synergies have been created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deshpande Foundation, GIVE India to widen the tanks digging activity • NABARD and Banks for SHGs and Bank linkages
What partnerships exist between them and local government, universities, NGOs, other CBOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deshpande Foundation, GIVE India, NABARD, College of Forestry, Agriculture University, and KVK
Describe any benefit from these partnerships as perceived by the intended beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support from Deshpande Foundation, GIVE India to widen the tanks digging activity • Financial support from NABARD and Banks for SHGs and Bank linkages • Extension services from College of Forestry, Agriculture University and KVK

Table 8: Co-Financing (Ask the Project Coordinator and Project Accountant)

What amount of cash co-financing has the project secured and from whom	\$ 1051909 (\$127388.5 by Deshpande Foundation, \$5636.943 by community, \$18733.61 by Give India, \$4683.402 by NABARD, \$146122.1 by Women SHGs and \$749344.3 through Bank Linkages of SHGs)
What has the cash co-financing been used to pay for	Digging of tanks, smokeless chullas, Earth Movers, etc.
What in-kind contributions have been made by others that complement this project	\$ 75533.91 (NGO for space & administrative expenses, community contribution in meetings & labour work)