Foreword:

It is time to reflect on our own efforts and achievements during the year 2008-09. It is also time to extend our wholehearted gratitude to the communities, who have been with us in each and every endeavor of ours.

Vasundhara’s work on access to natural resources, democratization of their governance and sustainable livelihood has acquired an added urgency and importance, in an environment where the development paradigm tends to see natural resources as outside the domain of the democratic polity. Vasundhara has been working on issues relating to governance of forests, biodiversity and land resources with an emphasis on local rights, secure livelihoods and social justice. Our work, guided by a vision of the democratization of natural resources governance and a radical restructuring of governance institutions, has focused on expanding the democratic space and improving democratic governance of natural resources.

The year 2006 heralded a new era in the forest governance system with the enactment of the ‘Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of forest rights) Act’ which, for the first time in the history of the country, formally acknowledged the historical injustice done to forest dwelling communities through a constant refusal to recognise their rights during the consolidation of state forests. The new forest rights law also empowers right holding communities to “protect, conserve, regenerate or manage” their community forest resources for sustainable use. Considering the immense potential of the empowering provisions of the FRA, which can be used as a powerful tool for democratization of forest governance in our country, Vasundhara has taken it seriously and has tried to engage with civil society and the government to work closely for effective implementation of the Act after its notification in January 2008.

There are other progressive laws and policies like the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act 2006, NREGA, PESA etc, which confer immense power in the hands of the local communities (Gram Sabha). We feel it is imperative to build pressure from the ground level upwards and launch informed advocacy to ensure the proper implementation of these progressive laws and policies.

We realize that the road ahead is long, tortuous and arduous. That is why we propose to take each step carefully and ensure that it takes us closer to our goal of sustainability and democratization of natural resources governance and socially just and ecologically sustainable development.

As we present Vasundhara’s Annual Report before you, we sincerely acknowledge the support of our partner agencies eg. Hivos, Ford Foundation, Concern Worldwide, AJWS, DST, WWF and CWS, without which it would not have been possible for us to do what we have done. We also express our deep gratitude to the people who believed in us and extended their unconditional support for our endeavour. I also take this opportunity to thank our board members for their constant guidance and valuable inputs.

I will be the first person to admit that we have committed some mistakes along the way. But I can assure you that we have learnt from them. These lessons, I am sure, will stand us in good stead in the journey ahead.

Executive Director
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Executive Committee
Ms. Madhu Sarin President
Ms. Neera M. Singh Vice-president
Mr. Prasant Mohanty Secretary-cum-Executive Director
Mr. S.K Pattanaik Member
Dr. Angana Chatterjee Member
Mr. Asish Kothari Member
Dr. Asha Hans Member
Dr. Shakti Padhi Treasurer
Mr. Y.Giri Rao Staff Representative
Ms. Bharati Chakra

VASUNDHARA TEAM

Community Forestry
Ms. Bharati Chakra
Ms. Tanushree Das
Mr. Ghasiram Panda
Mr. Adikanta Ojha

Sustainable Livelihoods & Economic Democratization
Mr. Rana Roy
Mr. Balabhadhra Mishra
Ms. Ethelrida Kispotta
Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Pradhan
Mr. Biswanath Tung
Mr. Nihar Dash
Mr. Manmohan Barik

Environment and Development
Mr. Himansu Sekhar Patra
Dr. Bijay Kumar Misra
Mr. Biswajyoti Sahoo
Mr. Sankar Prasad Pani

Land Rights Access and Tenure
Mr. Soumendra Sarangi
Mr. Pradeep Mishra
Dr. Sricharan Behera
Mr. Manohar Chauhan
Mr. Tarun Kumar Pradhan
Mr. Pratap Kishore Mohanty

Biodiversity Conservation & Governance
Mr. Y. Giri Rao
Ms. Sweta Mishra
Mr. Tushar Dash
Mr. Prasad Kumar Dash
Mr. Biswarupa Sahu
Ms. Sujata Das
Ms. Rashmi Rani Balbantaray
Ms. Ranjita Pattnaik

Community Empowerment Initiatives
Ms. Pushpanjali Satpathy
Ms. Bhagyalaxmi Biswal
Mr. Nilamani Mohapatra
Mr. Aurobindo Rout
Mr. Ashok Parida
Mr. Madhav Jena

Administration and Accounts
Ms. Sabita Singh
Mr. Krupasindhu Parida
Mr. Manoranjan Pattnaik
Mr. Padma Charan Panigrahi
Ms. Shakuntala Acharya
Mr. Rohit Behera
Mr. Manoj Dalua
Mr. Shyam Sundar Sahoo
Vasundhara is a policy research and action group based at Bhubaneswar, Odisha and is primarily working in the areas of natural resources governance, conservation and sustainable rural livelihoods. Founded in 1991, and got registered in 1992 as a Society under the Societies Registration ACT XXI of 1860, the organization initially focused on supporting and strengthening the self-initiated community forestry groups.

Our constant efforts have been towards highlighting the critical role that forests play in sustaining rural livelihoods. Our focus is to facilitate reflection of livelihood interests of forest dependents in the policy objectives and also to create situations where the primary gatherers are economically and politically empowered to have exclusive control over their lives and livelihood. Vasundhara is also embarking on a more direct action on different environmental and biodiversity conservation issues where the crux of our efforts lies in inter-twining the principles of conservation and local livelihood protection in conservation agenda.
**Mission**

Sustainable development, with emphasis on empowerment of rural poor, social justice and equity.

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**Goal**

To strengthen democratic governance of natural resources for sustainable livelihoods of resource dependent poor, especially tribals and dalits; and for environmental conservation.

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**Key Elements of Our Vision / Goals**

- Conservation
- Sustainable Livelihoods
- Democratization of Natural Resources Governance
- Social Justice
- “Voices” of the Poor/Political Involvement of the marginalized
Introduction
The State of Odisha is located in the Eastern Coast of India. It has a population of 36.7 million (Census, 2001), including 22% Scheduled Tribes and 16% Scheduled Caste population. Odisha houses 62 types of tribes including 13 Primitive Tribal Groups. 44% of the State is under Scheduled V area which grants special constitutional provisions for protection, development and governance of tribal communities. Odisha is one of the poorest states in India with 47.15% of the rural population living below poverty line. Poverty is further exacerbated along the lines of social groupings. Odisha’s marginalized sections, specifically tribals, scheduled castes and other forest dwellers suffer some of the worst indicators in terms of poverty levels and incomes, access to productive assets, education, health etc. For instance 72% of Orissa’s tribals live under poverty line. They live in conditions of subsistence dependence on agriculture and forests, and are linked to the larger economy through predatory and extractive market linkages.

Paradoxically, the most deprived people of Odisha often stay in environments extremely rich in natural resources. The explanation of this paradox lies in the political economy of the state. As Odisha also possesses some of the most valuable mineral reserves in the world, mostly in the areas that are ecologically fragile and politically powerless, they have been hinterlands of national and international corporates. Huge investments are being made in mining and mineral based industries, power generation and infrastructure in the state and Odisha is being touted as the ultimate investment destination.

In this development-model, the dependence of local communities on natural resources is undermined. Almost 38% of the state’s geographical area is recorded as ‘forest’ on which rural dependence is extremely high. Despite large-scale rural dependence on forests for subsistence, local ecological services and for livelihoods, forest governance has been focused on revenue maximization, conservation and utilization of timber and more recently on ecological functions of forests. The role of forests for poverty alleviation and for sustainable rural livelihoods has largely been ignored. Further, forest governance through centralized technocratic bureaucracy, has somehow seen forests as outside the domain of democratic polity. Whatever little pressures of popular demands for democratizing forest governance have emerged have also been curtailed by a restricted imagination of what is conceivable and imaginable due to a long history of exclusionary and centralized management.

In such a context, our work on natural resources governance, access, and sustainable livelihood with an explicit focus on improving democratic participation of the poor, becomes all the more urgent and important. Vasundhara has been working on issues relating to governance of forests, biodiversity, and land resources with an emphasis on local rights, secure livelihoods and social justice. This work is guided by a belief in the need for a radical democratic re-imagination of governance institutions, and for democratization of natural
resources governance. Our strategies have therefore focused on research, policy analysis, capacity building inputs and networking and coordinated action to step up the demands for democratic natural resource governance.

Vasundhara’s initial work was focused on strengthening self-initiated community forestry initiatives, and furthering community rights over forests and forest products. From 2001, we have worked with NTFP based cooperatives, and on analysis of NTFP policies and market support mechanisms. In recent years, in view of the large-scale industrialization in Odisha there has been an increasing grassroots demand for effective environmental governance and we have started addressing issues relating to environmental governance.

We are currently working in the following five thematic areas and one working team:

- Community Forestry
- Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Democratization
- Land Access, Rights and Tenure.
- Biodiversity Conservation and Governance
- Environment and Development
- Community Empowerment Initiatives, Ranpur²
These thematic areas provide a fluid structure to our work, and the teams work in close coordination and communication with each other. In all these thematic areas, Vasundhara has already taken steps to promote alternative discourses through research and analysis and sharing of findings with different networks. In four locations, we work directly with communities and community organizations, through field offices at Kuchinda and Barkote (with NTFP cooperatives in parts of Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundergarh, Deogarh and Angul districts) at Ranpur, Nayagarh district (with a block-level community forestry federation) and at Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi district (working in and around Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary).

Our interventions are informed by the need to deepen democracy, and to create conditions to address voicelessness and political marginalizations of the poor. The visions of democratization of natural resources governance as well as all walks of life, and the need for radical re-imagination of governance institutions, thus guide our work. The focus is hence on expanding democratic spaces, improving democratic governance of natural resources and capacity building of civil society actors to demand and sustain democratic spaces.

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1 National Sample Survey (NSS) 55th round 1999/00
2 Community Empowerment Initiative is a working team facilitating field interventions falling within different thematic groups.
Background

The team owes its origin to the impressive and spontaneous protection of forests by local communities in the state. In the late 1980s, Orissa launched a huge plantation drive, courtesy the Swedish International Development Cooperative Agency (SIDA) assisted social forestry programme. Nearly ten thousand forest dependent communities were also protecting and regenerating forests at the time without any state recognition or incentives. While the State emphasised creation of wood-lots, the community regenerated degraded forests by combining the principles of conservation and livelihood. Driven by economic needs and socio-cultural ties, these people were protecting forests on their own with their indigenous knowledge and diverse institutions. These emergent and self-evolved community forestry initiatives display enormous diversity, local ingenuity and creativity in their institutional arrangements. These initiatives inspired Vasundhara as we strongly believe that community based forest management systems are the only viable resource management option. We see these management systems as an important step in the direction of a more just and equitable resource management and utilization system that vests greater resource management rights with the direct resource dependent groups.

At the outset, the team launched a research programme on a modest scale in 1991 to examine the State’s policies towards forest dependent communities. The purpose was to critically understand the issues related to community forest management (CFM) and work towards its legal recognition by taking up necessary advocacy. Vasundhara’s initial work entailed documentation of community based forest management systems, research on the various institutional and ecological aspects of community forestry, sensitisation of Forest Department officials and the bureaucracy on the need for Participatory Forest Management etc.

Joint Forest Management is the main policy framework for involving communities in forest governance. But unfortunately, it provides very little space for democratic forest governance. Whatever little decentralisation there is within JFM as of now is not backed by statutory provisions. The Forest Department derives its legitimacy to control forests from the Indian Forest Act, 1927, that is currently interpreted in a way that allows it to exercise complete control over forest governance. Vasundhara has been constantly working towards recognition of community based forest management arrangements and changes in the Joint Forest Management (JFM) framework to provide more space and autonomy to local communities and their forest protection initiatives. As a member of the State level steering committee and Working Group on JFM, Vasundhara played an important role in bringing about proactive amendments in the JFM resolution of 1993. Due to our sustained advocacy efforts, a progressive resolution to declare community protected forests as ‘Village Forest’ was prepared in 1996. Unfortunately, however, it still remains a dead letter.
In recent years, the Government of India’s funding of JFM committees through Forest Development Agencies (FDA) have led to conflicts and breakdown of CFM arrangements. Our research on the impact of the FDA intervention shows its negative repercussions on CFM arrangements, lack of transparency and misplaced priorities on plantation, often at the cost of natural vegetation. Instead of a supportive policy environment for natural regeneration through local communities (which is already taking place all over Odisha at no cost), funds (taken on loan) from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for forestry are invested in plantations with huge financial outlays, poor survival and little local relevance. The role of forests in local livelihoods continues to be neglected and sustained efforts are needed to bring these issues centrestage. Vasundhara has been trying to facilitate ushering in of necessary changes to evolve a stable and sustainable community based forest resource management system.

The year 2006-07 was a landmark in the annals of the development history of the State. It witnessed the passing of a progressive legislation guaranteeing people’s rights over community forest resources. We have also initiated a process with civil society for a legal and policy framework for CFM by preparing an initial draft for amendments to the Odisha Village Forest Rules (OVFR), 1985. Since January 2008, we at Vasundhara have been focusing on the Act with special reference to Community Forest Rights (CFR). In 2008, we produced a documentary film ‘An ode to Marangburu’, (The God of Forest) on the symbiotic relationship between forests and the people living within or in close proximity to them that sought to prove that the two are organically linked and complementary to each other.

**Major Achievement**

- An alternative draft proposing amendments to the Odisha Village Forest Rule (OVFR) 1985 was prepared after a series of consultations with civil society groups.

- State-wide campaign on the proposed amendment to the Odisha Village Forest Rules (OVFR). Civil society groups formed a working group and drew an ‘action-plan’ to lead the campaign. Later, forest federations from 17 districts submitted memorandum to the Chief Minister in March 2009 demanding amendment in the OVFR.

- The team has made notable progress in bringing the issue of community forestry to the centre stage of political discourse. At the regional level, a couple of political parties have, in their manifestoes, pledged to bring suitable amendments in the OVFR.

- In association with the civil society groups, we made the draft Odisha State Forest Policy (OSFP) public. The draft policy - a DFID sponsored proposal - was under wraps till recently. The initiative generated a debate within the community leading to the submission of a memorandum to the CM and the Principal Conservator of Forests asking for the exclusion of sections hostile to the community’s rights over forest. The OSFP has been kept in abeyance since then.
Expansion of strategic collaboration with forest federations in districts like Sonepur, Jharsuguda and Nuapara is a significant achievement during the reporting period. The collaboration assumes significance in view of the extensive loss of forests through the neo-liberal forces of industrialisation in Jharsuguda.

To highlight the issues of gender and environment from the CFM perspective, we conducted an orientation of school teachers at the Regional College of Education, Bhubaneswar. The training programme was an effort towards introduction of the topic in the school curriculum.

A notable achievement this year was the screening of our documentary ‘An ode to Marangburu’, (The God of Forest) at the BYOFF film festival at Puri.

Work accomplished
Policy Analysis/Advocacy:
We have constantly endeavoured to bring about changes in policy that would recognise and uphold the right of the community to manage and govern forest resource. Convinced that only legal intervention would define the inherent grey areas in the recently enacted Forest Rights Act, we helped draft a counter to the writ petition seeking abrogation of the FRA. The underlying purpose of the move was to generate a debate in the civil society and build pressure for corrective legislation.

Other than FRA, the team has done a detailed analysis of the OSFP, identified the provisions that run counter to CFM and shared the findings with the community. The team also prepared an alternative draft of the OVFR, 1985 after extensive consultations with the community. The
process of sharing has helped rejuvenate forest-protecting communities. In fact, the exercise has prompted the Odisha Jungle Manch (OJM) to take the issue on a campaign mode and helped push the OSFP into cold storage. Articles on the issues and problems associated with FRA and OSFP have been regularly published in the print media (mainstream Odia dailies)

**Research:**
Currently, the team is engaged in a village level ‘biography study’ in collaboration with NIRD, Hyderabad. The study looks into the village communes’ perception of forests, their ideological moorings vis-à-vis their saga of conservation and livelihood shaped through generations. Besides, another study that seeks to document the CFM practices of the people in selected districts is also underway. However, in a significant departure from past research practices, the team played a catalyst in the production of a documentary last year. The documentary attempts to explore and capture the people-forest intimacy expressed through folk songs and stories surrounding the forest. The documentary, widely acclaimed by the media, film personalities and community people, can be a useful tool for advocacy and education in issues related to CFM. Finally, the team has presented a research paper examining the implications of climate change on community forestry at a workshop organised under the aegis of Focus Odisha network.

**Networking:**
We have been working closely with the administration in the state in general and Nayagarh district in particular in facilitating the implementation of the Forest Rights Act. Besides, the team has also worked in close collaboration with like-minded groups, individuals and forums on issues like OSFP and OVFR.

**Field Intervention:**
In Badamba, Cuttack, the forest protecting community is pitted against the Forest Department over harvesting of bamboo conserved and protected by them. The community demands the harvest of the crop as flowering of bamboo has already started in the area. As is well known, bamboo flowering is the precursor to the withering of the crop and the community justifiably wants that it should be allowed to harvest the crop. But its demand is opposed by the forest department. To overcome this problem, we advised the community to claim their Community Forest Right (CFR) on this forest under the Forest Rights Act.

The team also facilitated laying of similar claims under FRA in Ranpur and elsewhere in the state.

**Facilitation of Forest Rights Act:**
This has been the major area of intervention for the team during the last year. The team has initiated several innovative methods with greater emphasis on effectiveness and sustainability to bolster the FRA. Steps were taken to create a decentralised chain of training networks to meet the training needs of maximum people in minimum time. As part of the exercise, the team launched a ‘training of the trainers’ programme for OJM volunteers from 14 districts. Moreover, to enable proper claim making, a reference manual simplifying procedures relating to the Act was developed in native languages. The team, using PRA
tools, assisted the community to make CFR claim by drawing maps in 15 villages from three districts in Koraput, Nayagarh and Deogarh. The involvement of the community in preparing their own map identifying various common resource points, pilferage routes, development potential etc., added a whole new dimension to our involvement in the FRA exercise. Furthermore, to ensure that the maps stand scientific scrutiny, GPS and other scientific tools were also used to upgrade the map. Finally, the team continuously updated the community, bureaucracy and others through regular contributions in the media outlining the operational difficulties faced by the community. Rejuvenation of the OJM, collaboration with like-minded networks and liaising with government officers have been some of the significant gains achieved courtesy of the act.

**Learning**
- Interactive learning through our interaction with the community
- Strategic relations with the administration helps delivery
- Collaboration with the media is very important for successful lobby-advocacy

**Outreach**
Presently, the team is working in fourteen districts of the state in collaboration with networks, individuals and people’s organisations

**Future Area of Intervention**
We plan to work throughout the state with a wide array of networks in the coming days.
Sustainable Livelihood & Economic Democratization
Background

NTFPs constitute an important part of the livelihood of the poor in some of the most backward and tribal regions of Odisha, very little attention has been paid so far to their role in rural development. The NTFP market is highly unstable with problems like the dominance of unscrupulous traders and unethical trade practices, improper flow of market information, lack of processing and storage facilities, absence of market yards etc. Primary gatherers deal with the market at their individual level with small quantities of products, putting them at a huge disadvantage. At the policy level, the role of forest and forest products in poverty alleviation and in sustaining livelihoods continues to be ignored.

Vasundhara’s work on NTFP based livelihoods started with advocating local primary gatherers’ rights over these products and their markets. The NTFP policy of 2000 created the space for community based NTFP marketing. Following this, Vasundhara started working on community based enterprises for NTFP marketing with an understanding that mere policy change won’t change much without proactive initiatives at the community level.

After the enactment of the ‘Odisha Self-help Cooperative Act 2001’ in June 2002, an opportunity was created for self-help cooperatives by NTFP enterprises. Overcoming networking constraints at the beginning, Vasundhara directly got involved in co-operative promotion work in August 2002. Since then, the efforts have gradually spread to Kuchinda, Bamra and Jamankira blocks of Sambalpur district, Tilaibani and Barkote block of Deogarh district and Pallahara block of Angul district. At present, there are 35 women’s primary cooperatives which have networked to form two unions, which are secondary level cooperatives.

Following demands from other areas as well for facilitation inputs for formation of cooperatives, we are now exploring grounds in a few forested districts viz. Koraput, Sundargarh (Lahunipada) and Phulbani.

Lack of information relating to the market and required skills to manage business operations are major bottlenecks in the cooperativisation process. NGOs engaged in livelihood promotion through collective action also have inadequate skills at market facilitation. To address this aspect, a Business Development Cell works as a part of the team. It comprises Vasundhara personnel having a marketing background and union staff members who jointly review and plan out strategies. This team gathers market information, undertakes liaison with traders at different levels and maintains linkages with government agencies. The team is also exploring the possibilities of infrastructure development and the finances required by the cooperative institutions for this.
As another support initiative, we have also set up a Community Enterprise Revolving Fund (CERF) at the level of Vasundhara, for providing loans to the unions, their primary cooperatives and other collective business initiatives.

Besides, we continue to be involved in NTFP/enterprise research and advocacy to bring in more pro-people policy changes.

**Major Accomplishments**

1. As a result of advocacy efforts for exclusion of Mahua from the purview of Excise Laws, a private member’s bill proposing related amendments was introduced in the State Assembly and is pending discussion and approval.

2. Publication of the report of the research study on *Impact of Globalisation on NTFPs* carried out in collaboration with NCAS, Pune. This research gave us a deeper insight into the issues - particularly those related to trade - and helped us in our advocacy work.

3. Facilitating cooperatives has proved to be a unique experiment in grounding of cooperative legislation in the forestry sector and using the space created by NTFP de-regulation and is expected to benefit a large number of primary gatherers. The process has brought the highly disorganized forest dependent communities together to make a definite change in their lives and livelihoods.

4. Improved market negotiations and crossing market levels with improved prices. On an average, the incremental gain to members has been in the range of 42 – 54% in case of both the unions.

5. Membership of over 80% of the primary cooperatives has increased. Currently, the total membership covers around 2547 households. In all the cooperatives a substantial number are tribals (92% in Kuchinda and 72% in Barkote).
6. Gender relations have improved as a result of the collective effort. Women now play a greater role in family decision making, conflict resolution, conserving and managing natural resource base (forest protection, issues of stone quarrying), participation in local self-governance (Two women have been elected as Sarpanch and a few as ward members), functioning as pressure group - particularly in handling officials, NREGA programmes etc.

FOCUS FOR 2008-09

NTFP Research & Advocacy

Some of major advocacy and research agendas in this segment pursued during the period have been the following:

1. Pressing for removal of Mahua from the purview of Excise legislation on the ground that Mahua, in itself, is not an intoxicant. Such de-regulation would help community-based enterprises like cooperatives to deal freely in the produce and avoid duties and fees which may add to their returns. A calculation done by Vasundhara shows that trade in mahua is not a profitable venture if excise fees and duties are paid as per the norms of Excise law. But traders do manage to earn a sizeable profit by evading duties and fees on mahua in connivance with Excise officials.

2. With an understanding that Kendu Leaf pluckers should be recognized as owners of the produce and profits from its trade that generates an annual revenue of around Rs.150 crores shared with them, we have undertaken a feasibility study on the possibility of plucker owned and managed KL operation. This concept of ownership has gained further ground with the passage of the Forest Rights Act in the recent past.
3. In the course of our work on cooperatives, we were able to realize the phenomenon of credit linked value chain finance, which needs exploration on the basis of the following observations:

- The need for adopting thrift and credit practices in cooperatives is now being felt increasingly. There is a growing realization of the negative impact of credit on the collective commodity business under a situation where it is not in practice at the cooperative level.

- In the cooperative arena, several Micro Finance institutions have been working with a variety of approaches. But it is apparent that there is a mismatch between cooperative systems and current MF practices, which are actually emerging as threats to such collective processes.

**Facilitating Self-reliant Cooperatives**

Our work in Kuchinda was initiated in the year 2003 and in Barkote in the year 2004. We are currently engaged with the unions in facilitating the cooperative process.

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### NTFP Cooperatives: Fact Sheet

- 35 primary cooperatives covering 107 villages of 29 Gram Panchayats
- Members from 2547 households
- 2 unions spread over 4 districts: Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh & Angul
- Banaja Banijya Sangha, Kuchinda (Sambalpur)
- Banani Mahila Samabaya Sangha, Barkote (Deogarh)
- Items traded: Mahua, Siali leaf, Sal Seed, Tamarind, Bhadun, Siali leaf plate
- Annual Business Turnover: Rs. 50 lacs.

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### Primary Cooperatives

- Usually draws members from 2-5 villages/hamlets within a radius of 2-3 kms.
- Membership
  - Primary Gatherers
- Core Service
  - Pooling of commodities produced, collected and prepared by the members.

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### Unions

- Membership
- Primary Cooperatives
- Core Service
- Marketing of commodities pooled by the member cooperatives
in the region as mentioned above. During the reporting period, the major focus of the facilitation process has been on consolidation of existing initiatives. This involved strengthening of the leadership base, consolidation of the membership base of cooperatives and optimization of business. Besides, due attention was also paid to formation of new cooperatives in the prospective area of the Union. Some of the key interventions during the period have been:

**Capacity Building of Cooperative Directors, Managers, Organizers and other village volunteers**

**Strengthening Regular Functions/ organizational**
- Organizational activities of cooperatives have been regularized to an extent of around 70% on an average.
- With greater participation of the local administration, Union General Body meetings have now become a much more vibrant affair. In one case, funds have been granted for a godown from the MLA LAD fund.
- GBs of primary cooperatives have been organized with their own contribution.
- Regions of the Unions have been re-organised as part of the consolidation process.
- Education and awareness building on the cooperative process have been taken up in a big way by organizing *Kala Jatha*.
- Exposure visits have been facilitated for external organisations.

**Strengthening Business**
- Paddy has been included as a new item in one of the Unions, Banaja Banijya Sangha, Kuchinda.
- Procurement of other commodities, particularly Siali leaf, has increased significantly.
- Current Mahua business was handled better in terms of negotiating sale in a highly volatile market situation.
- Thrift and credit has been started in 7 cooperatives by way of a service to members.
- The return from Sal seed has been more than 100% as compared to last year.

**Future Focus**

The major focus areas in the coming three years would be as follows:
- Consolidation of existing work with core focus on self-reliance of cooperative organisations. The consolidation process would include the stabilization of the membership base of primary cooperatives and unions, strengthening of leadership, formation of new cooperatives in uncovered areas under the prospective coverage area of each of the Unions.
- Leveraging the learnings, skills and knowledge acquired in the process for replication of similar initiatives in other forested regions of the State through collaborative arrangements involving local NGOs/ other set of local facilitators. This would involve both up scaling and out scaling of such initiatives.
- Focus on understanding economic policy issues concerning the forest dependent poor and their enterprises and give shape to an advocacy agenda and strategy.
Community Empowerment Initiatives (Ranpur)
Community Empowerment Initiative

Background

Community Empowerment Initiative (CEI), a thematic unit of Vasundhara, has been working on institutional strengthening of community forestry federation and women’s organizations and livelihood improvement of the resource dependent poor in Ranpur block of Nayagarh district since 1997. During the last year, the focus was on strengthening of community forestry groups through federation. The efforts were aimed at effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act, perspective planning and facilitating livelihood improvement of the resource dependent poor through sustainable agriculture, Siali enterprise, campaign against Jatropha and advocacy on Kendu leaf issues.

Work done in last one year

Federation Strengthening and Conflict Resolution in Resource Management

Vasundhara believes that community institutions have the requisite skill and capability to manage the local forest resources in a sustainable manner. Based on this belief, it has been focusing on strengthening the community forestry federation in Ranpur since 1997. This year, a three-year perspective planning exercise of the forest protecting federation called Maa Maninag Jungle Surakhya Parisad was facilitated in which federation members reflected upon their work approaches and drew up a future course of action.

The annual convention of MMJSP, held in Ranpur, provided a platform for sharing information and experiences related to forestry and other governance issues. In recognition of the community’s efforts in forest conservation, certificates of recognition were awarded to village groups.

There was an inter-village conflict between Lunisahi and Dengajhari villages resulting in the breakdown of forest protection activities by the groups. Vasundhara initiated a dialogue with women’s groups and Maa Maninag Jungle Surakhya Parisad. Finally, the difference was resolved and collective forest protection resumed. Women, irrespective of their family affiliations, started protection of the forest resources. A joint forest protection committee of Lunisahi and Dengajhari was also formed for mutual support to each other in forest patrolling.

Facilitation of Forest Rights Act in Ranpur Block

Towards settlement of individual and community rights over the forest land/resources they are either cultivating or customarily using, Vasundhara has been facilitating the process of filing of claims for the rights of tribal and other forest dwelling communities under The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. MMJSP, the local federation, is playing an important role in it and its expertise and understanding of the issues is helping in resolution of inter-village conflicts in respect of community forest resources.
In order to cover all the areas in Ranpur block, claim making under FRA was taken up in a campaign mode through a series of awareness meetings, workshops for federation members, PRI members, govt. officials. Hand holding support was extended to the villagers, wherever required, to fill up the claim forms correctly. Community Forest Resources, which is an important component under the Act, was also given its due attention. Evidences related to the district were collected and compiled from various secondary sources and provided to the community so that they could attach them along with their claim forms. GIS mapping of Community Forest Resources (CFR) was completed in four villages (Gunduribadi, Akhupadara, Tulubi, Gambharikhol) and claims were filed accordingly along with supporting evidences. Filing of Community claims is also being facilitated in other villages as well.

Vasundhara has been invited as a resource organization by the SDLC and DLC of Nayagarh District to provide training to the community and local officials on FRA and its inputs sought for the claim settlement process. On the invitation of SDLC and DLC, the representatives of MMJSP and Vasundhara are participating in the SDLC and DLC meetings and are placing the issues before the committee for necessary action. Training was imparted to SDLC & DLC members at Ranpur block office to educate the SDLC & DLC members on their role in the Implementation of the Act. A major achievement in the whole process has been the fact that Ranpur has recorded the highest number of claims in respect of CFR in the whole state.

Pradhanjhola village consisting entirely of scheduled caste population was settled in the forest areas of Ranpur block during the seventies. The poor villagers are barred from claiming their rights under the Forest Rights Act as being non tribals, they are unable to produce documentary evidence of 75 years of occupation in the possessed land. Realizing the difficulty in claiming their rights under FRA, Vasundhara explored the scope for regularization of the pre-1980 settlement (as per MoEF circular) and found that Govt. had already identified land in Pradhanjhola for pre-1980 settlement and arranged alternative land for declaration of forest land in Khuntabandha village. Around 20 hectares of forest land has already been demarcated to be settled for Pradhanjhola village under this process. With the follow up support by Vasundhara, the government expedited the process and has taken steps to settle the land in favour of the village very soon.

Livelihood initiatives
Siali leaf based Livelihood to Conservation of Siali plants

Siali enterprise is the beginning of livelihood intervention of Vasundhara in Ranpur. Two Siali Sangathans have emerged in the process. The establishment of market linkage, which has fetched 20 % higher prices to members of Siali Sangathan, has been a very encouraging development in Vasundhara’s Siali enterprise. Members sold around 3.5 lakhs leaf plates and earned around Rs. 1, 18, 500. As a result of this, CERF loan repayment has been around Rs.25, 000.

Siali leaves serve not only as a source of livelihood for the women in Ranpur; it is also closely integrated with the culture of the local community. Around 102 households involved in Siali leaf based enterprises celebrate ‘Siali Ustav’ every year during the auspicious ‘Deba Snana Purnima’ of Lord Jagannath. The initiative was a result of the growing concern among women’s groups about the sustainability of Siali leaves for generations. The process has indirectly contributed to the conservation of the Siali plants in forest area. The festival
Annual Report

was organised by women groups and was attended by large number of people majority of whom are women. This process adding strength to the conservation voices of the poor through the cross sharing of their enriching experiences.

Kendu leaf Advocacy
Since 1999, Vasundhara has been supporting Maa Maninag Jungle Surakhya Parisad, in their struggle for establishment of Kendu leaf Phadies in Ranpur area. So far, 5 regular govt. collection centres have been set up and leaves worth Rs. 1, 66, 197 procured from the phadis. Around 347 families from 26 villages have been. Temporary collection centers have been established in Ranpur areas, including one new collection centre, and collection centres elevated to phadi (permanent collection center) status last year. The success of the kendu leaf advocacy can be judged from the fact that new phadies are opened in Ranpur whereas govt. Kendu leaf phadies are closing down in other areas of the state. There has considerably improved regular payment to pluckers and seasonal workers in Ranpur.

Bamboo Agarabati Stick making and Rolling
Vasundhara has also supported MMJSP in creating livelihood opportunities for poor women through Bamboo Agarabati Stick making and Rolling. At present, 85 households are engaged in the enterprise and are earning a sizeable income for their families. Agarbatti Rolling has been a recent development and the women have acquired the necessary skills for it. The quality of the sticks has also improved significantly over the years. In the long run, Vasundhara is contemplating building an enterprise to look after the business and manage things on its own.

Organic Farming and SRI
Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy in the Ranpur area followed by forest. For the conservation of indigenous rice varieties, which are on the verge of extinction, Vasundhara has tried SRI (System of Rice Intensification) paddy cultivation in Ranpur since last year. SRI is not a technological solution but rather a farmer’s innovation through which the yield can be substantially increased with very little external inputs and without compromising economic and ecological gains. We had experimented with SRI with 13 farmers in Ranpur last year, which turned out to be a very encouraging experience. Twelve of the 13 farmers got higher yields while in one case, the farmer experienced problems due to use of hybrid seeds and inadequate use of organic manure. The other major constraint faced was erratic rainfall which delayed the transplantation by 10 days. With SRI, we found better growth of the plants and the yield has been 15 to 70 % higher.

Crop Improvement and Indigenous Seed Conservation
At present, the agriculture bureaucracy and agricultural research establishments are under pressure to promote and patronize commercial agriculture and GM crops which are part of the design to make Indian agriculture dependent on external inputs for all time to come. But if there are people or organizations in such places who understand the implications of such policies on the farmers, then they would certainly resist this move tooth and nail and work to strengthen indigenous agriculture. The key to a self-reliant and self-sustainable
agriculture is the farmer’s control over locally available indigenous seeds. Therefore, we have taken crop improvement and conservation of indigenous seeds as a major strategy of agro biodiversity conservation. Training was imparted to farmers on indigenous seed selection and purification. They were also trained on how they can improve the crops and the yield from indigenous seeds. In the last kharif season, we started working on crop improvement through building the capacities of the farmers and focused on the conservation of 7 indigenous varieties of rice.

**Home Garden**

Home garden was promoted as part of the effort to achieve nutritional security in the households and to empower women farmers. Last year, we collaborated with 8 existing SHGs in Gambharikhol, Iramaru, Dhamada, Haripur and Pankalbadi villages. Under a new initiative, women were encouraged to go for nutritional home gardens as a regular activity, which can not only meet family requirements, but also start conservation of vegetable seeds.

**Strengthening Women’s Organization**

Women’s empowerment is another important component of Vasundhara’s strategy of democratizing natural resource governance. Since 1999, Vasundhra has been constantly working towards creating the institutional space for women and their capacity building in Ranpur. Initially an informal central women committee was formed which got the shape of Ranpur Mahila Sangathan, (RMS), which has contributed significantly to the women’s empowerment process. RMS led to a restructuring of the agenda of the forest protecting federation in Ranpur and a change in its gender perspective. Today, the male counterparts/ leaders are openly acknowledging the leadership potential of the women’s groups.

Last year women leaders of RMS met the BDO and Block Chairman and discussed difficulties in getting pension and accessing the benefits of the Antyodaya and Annapurna schemes. As a result of this, women could get pension under the Madhu Babu Pension Scheme.

One of the most encouraging developments in women’s empowerment has been the fact that forest dependant and forest dwelling women have now become members in forest rights committees formed under the Forest Right Act and are playing an active role in carrying out their responsibilities.

**Sharing of experiences through Interface**

- **Exposure and Interface of women leaders**
  An exposure visit for women’s groups was organised to Mandibisi Mahila Sangathan (MMS) of Rayagada district in order to facilitate cross learning and sharing of experiences. Women of MMS shared their experiences during their long struggle and narrated how they finally got the right to collectively trade hill brooms.

- **Community leader’s interface**
  An interface of community leaders was held on 18th October 2008 in Ranpur. It provided close interaction between two women’s organizations, i.e., *Ranpur Mahila*
Sangathan and Aaam Sangthan. Mrs. Sumani Jhudia and Mrs. Mukta Jhudia, tribal women leaders from ‘Aama Sangathan’, Kasipur, Rayagada, had come to Ranpur and shared their rich experiences in organization formation, their struggle to assert their rights over their resources and resolving contentious issues. Ranpur Mahila Sangathan also shared their struggle for the establishment of Kendu leaf collection centres. In addition to this, their efforts on Siali enterprise, bamboo stick making were also shared by the Ranpur women.

**Publication of Banabarata**

Banabarata is a quarterly newsletter of the organization focusing on the issues of livelihood, governance and environment. Four issues of Banabarata have already been published during the last year covering a range of issues viz: bio-diversity, Jatropha cultivation and its implication, mining and its impact on Kodingamali, dignity of tribals, conservation of culture and FRA, review of rehabilitation and resettlement policy-2006, GM seeds and Multinational Corporation, Medical waste management in Odisha etc.

**Major Achievements over this year**

- Conflict resolution among women’s groups in Lunisahi village
- Members sold around 3.5 lakhs Siali leaf plates getting around Rs. 1, 18, 500. As a result of this, CERF loan repayment has been around Rs.25, 000.
- Successful implementation of SRI paddy cultivation. The yield of 12 farmers has been 15 to 70 % higher.
- Farmers have taken up the conservation of 7 indigenous varieties of rice
- Around 347 families from 26 villages got Rs. 1, 66, 197 from the kendu leaf phadi and a new phadi was opened.
- Women have got involved in forest rights committees and have taken the initiative to make govt. pension programs more accessible for eligible women
- SDLC and DLC of Nayagarh district have invited Vasundhara as a resource organization to provide training to the community and local officials on FRA
- 78 villages have already sent their community claim under FRA to SDLC while the claims are being processed in 23 others. Community Mapping Process – CFR claiming process has been undertaken in four villages

**Future areas intervention**

- Strengthening women’s organizations and federation
- Organic villages and conservation of agro-biodiversity
- Strengthening forest management committees after CFR claim process and creating model for local governance of forests
Land Rights, Access & Tenure
Background

Land is the most important productive asset that contributes significantly in sustaining livelihood of majority of tribal and forest dwellers in Odisha. Thus, ownership of land would augment “the spirit of assurance” for food security. Hitherto, poor access and control over land, owing to flawed institutional practices, poor implementation of laws and lack of appropriate policy environment resulted in impoverishment, tenurial insecurity, migration and escalating violence. Hence, the land rights for these communities have been a critical issue.

Vasundhara started working on forest land issues from 2002. The work assumed a more organised shape when a separate thematic area on the issue was formed in 2004. Lack of availability of credible information and their objective analysis in the context of policies was a major constraint initially. Besides, there were only a few civil society groups which worked on land tenure issues and most of them lacked adequate capacity on policy issues. This felt need prompted us to focus on Action Research on land and forest tenure issues. Among other things, we studied the linkages of land and forest tenure issues with environmental security and sustainable livelihood, legal study of tribal land in Schedule V or tribal area; forestland tenure issues and land tenure issues in watershed development programmes.

The information generated from these studies has been a critical input in shaping alternative discourses on land and forest issues in Odisha among civil society groups. It prompted them to take up policy advocacy and local action like land settlement initiatives. Apart from action research, we have also been deeply involved with the nationwide forest rights campaign that was instrumental in the enactment of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of forest rights) Act 2006. As a part of this campaign at the national and state levels, we have generated data and information to strengthen the case for the passing of this Act. Further, as a resource group, we have consistently provided research and capacity building support to the campaign and other civil society actors for policy advocacy in favour of Forest Rights Act (FRA). Our association with the campaign and other civil society organisations has also provided us with the opportunity to learn from the varied experiences of these groups working on forest rights issues.

Action Research and Policy Analysis

Action Research /Study on Forest rights Act
A detailed study on the Forest Rights Act was taken up with focus on the implication of this Act for meaningful pro-poor institutional reform at the local level and poverty alleviation. As a part of this study, two village case studies – one each in Deogarh and Kandhamal districts - were taken up. The study is in the final stage and is likely to give new insights into the implications of this Act on the livelihood of forest dwellers.

Documentation on Forest Rights Act, 2006
The team is also involved in documentation of the implementation process of the Forest Rights Act in selected areas of Tribal Districts in proper coordination with local partners and forest rights campaign groups. The research and documentation process includes case studies, discussion with government officials, notes on constraints in the implementation process, etc. It is expected that the research would help in identification of policy constraints in implementation of FRA and throw up some recommendations on required amendments in the existing law.

The team has designed posters, leaflets and other ICT materials on FRA and has contributed significantly in the making of documentary film title “SWIKRUTI”.
ACHIEVEMENTS

- Research study on implication of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 on pro-poor institutional reform and poverty alleviation.
- Action research and process documentation on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act has provided a critical input for the policy advocacy process undertaken by the forest rights campaign.
- Compilation of a comprehensive information base on operational landholding pattern in selected districts of Odisha.
- Provided inputs as a resource group to the forest rights campaign and helped build the capacities of local groups associated with the campaign on the Forest Rights Act.
- We also played an important role as part of a forest rights campaign that addressed issues like caste certificates, location of forestland, other traditional forest dwellers, NTFP etc in the context of FRA through policy advocacy.
- Some of our feedback to the state government as part of the forest rights campaign contributed to issuance of people-friendly government circulars on FRA.
- The land team also developed models of forest land settlement through empowerment mode in selected places with the help of local partners.
Supporting Drafting of counter affidavit
The implementation of the Forest Rights Act in Orissa faced a legal problem when a petition was filed against the Act in July by the association of retired forest officials. Putting our research into the legal process to good use, we supported the local groups during the drafting of the counter affidavit and prepared notes from secondary sources.

Compilation of Database on Revenue land
A database on revenue land in the state is being prepared from secondary sources. A detailed comparative analysis of operational land holding by different social groups from 1970s until 2001 has already been prepared. There are plans to include other land related information, including land distribution programs, land use patterns, details of land lease, etc., in the database. The database is expected to cater to the needs of other civil society groups working for policy advocacy and local action.

Training and Capacity building

Training and Capacity Building on Forest Rights Act
We have played a significant role in the training and orientation of grassroots organizations, forest rights campaign groups, members of Forest Rights Committee and PRI members on Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the rules thereunder. These training and orientation programs have raised awareness about the enabling provisions of the Act among forest dwelling communities, facilitated legal claim making process on forest land and CFR and prevented violation of the Act.

Interface with Government Officials for facilitation of FRA
We have also participated in the interface meetings of civil society groups and government officials, who are part of either SDLC (Sub Divisional level Committee) or DLC (District Level Committee) and are responsible for proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act. These meetings have provided us the opportunity to raise issues concerning proper implementation of the Act and bring to the notice of the officials lapses made on the part of local officials. During the last one year, our team members have attended many such meetings in Tribal districts like Deogarh, Kandhamal, Kuchinda, Nuapada, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundergarh.

Field Interventions

Facilitation of legal claims under FRA
We are facilitating communities to make legal claim on Forest land and Community Forest Resource under Forest Rights Act with the help of local partners in selected areas in Deogarh, Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts. The claim making process is at an advanced stage in many of these areas.

Facilitation of Revenue land settlement
We are also facilitating settlement of revenue land initiated by our local partners in selected places of Tribal areas. The idea is to develop models of land settlement using the existing policy space, which can then be replicated in other areas.

Development of CFR model in Kondhamal
In Kandhamal district, we have been facilitating the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 in more than 5 GPs. Beginning with one, we expanded in due course to other areas of Phulbani Subdivision. As a part of the facilitation process, we provided training and capacity building support to local civil society organisations and had meaningful interface with government agencies like ITDA& OTELP.
Given the importance of rights over Community Forest Resource or CFR for democratic forest governance, we focussed more on developing participatory models on CFR for wider replication. The “empowerment” approach was given top priority and community members took the lead in mapping of CFR, evidence collection, oral evidence mapping, record maintenance, communication and correspondence, resolution writing, notification, resolving inter and intra village conflict, etc. In the course of our facilitation, we have trained twenty volunteers from within the community, who have turned out to be good trainers on FRA for community members of three GPs. Such has been the mobilisation that the community groups have brought the constraints in the implementation of FRA to the notice of SDLC and DLC on their own through memorandums and interfaces.

Apart from the community centred approach, the mapping and documentation process of CFR emphasised the inclusion of women, traditional herbalists, priests and village elders. The methodology included detailed description of the types of resources, community land and other services of the forest and community resources through simple maps with the support of FRC members. We are facilitating replication of this simple model in other adjacent areas for making claim on CFR.

**Networking and alliance building**

Our continued association with the forest rights campaign at the national and state levels has not only provided us the opportunity to highlight the policy issues relating to FRA, but has also strengthened the campaign. At the state level meetings, the campaign also organized interaction with Govt. officials like revenue secretary, members of the state level FRA monitoring committee and policy makers. These strategic meetings have helped to address many policy issues faced during the implementation of the Act.

**Governance and Policy advocacy**

*Participation in meetings with civil society groups on Policy issues*

The members of the land rights team have participated in various state and regional level discussions on FRA and Revenue laws/policies as a resource group. They have presented research papers in the state level consultation on “Access to land of poor in Odisha” and
have made presentations on FRA as resource persons in Koraput, Keonjhar and some other regional level discussions.

**Initiatives for state level PTG consultation**

Lack of any clear cut guidelines within the Forest Rights Act and the corresponding rules on the habitat of PTG has raised much confusion. Our team members, with support from the sustainable livelihood and bio-diversity thematic areas have taken the initiative to plan for a state level consultation on this issue involving community groups, government officials and policy makers.

**Advocacy and campaign initiatives**

With continuous information support from the organisation, the forest rights campaign group has played a significant role in highlighting policy issues like caste certificate, Community Forest Resource, demarcation in forest villages and other implementation issues relating to the Forest Rights Act.

During the last year, the campaign organized a mass rally and submitted a memorandum to the Government highlighting policy issues. Campaign members also met government officials from time to time and discussed policy issues with them. Apart from engaging in dialogues with the government over implementation issues, the forest rights campaign also resorted to other democratic means, wherever necessary.

**Major learning**

- The long years of subjugation of Tribal and forest dwelling communities, lack of capacity of Gram Sabhas, the complex nature of forest tenure issues and the varied interpretation of the FRA constrained the response of the communities. As a result, the implementation process didn't proceed at the desired pace and with the participation of the community as envisaged by us.

- The notification of the Forest Rights Act after a long struggle tempted us as it did many other civil society organizations - to get into implementation mode in many places and focus more on the claim filing process. Later, however, we realized that our core competence equipped us to play the role of a resource group on this issue rather than an implementing organisation.

- The larger emphasis on the individual claim filing process by the government and a majority of civil society organizations has overlooked the importance of the empowerment process envisaged in the Act. Hence, we feel that much better mobilization is required to help the community assert and realize its rights over forests though local institutions like Palli Sabhas/Gram Sabhas.

- We provided meaningful capacity building support to civil society and forest rights campaign groups. Still, we could not pay as much attention on formulating strategies to extend our outreach among important stakeholders like the government, policy makers, media etc.

**Future Areas of Intervention**

We plan to take up action and policy research on the Forest Rights Act and Revenue laws and policies and to provide pro-poor policy recommendations to the government and civil society organisations. Apart from studies, we also have extensive plans of capacity building of civil society actors on FRA and revenue laws and policies. Networking with civil society actors and policy advocacy on the Forest Rights Act would also play a significant part in our future intervention.
Biodiversity Conservation & Governance
Mission

We believe that biodiversity conservation has to be rooted in democratic institutions and processes, which take into account the intricate mutual relationship between societies and ecosystems.

Background

From its inception, Vasundhara has focused its attention on community forestry initiatives and the potential of community based forest protection efforts to show the way for viable community based natural resources governance. In due course, we broadened our perspective by adding the component of sustainable forest based livelihoods in order to strengthen natural resources governance. Though Vasundhara has always worked with the philosophy of biodiversity conservation, it was not one of its core areas earlier. Of late, in view of the increasing threat from globalization, liberalization, privatization and the current conservation governance system, we have consciously started working in this area. With one third of the population of the state critically dependent on forest resources, biodiversity has always been an integral part of the socio-cultural life of the local people. But the ‘exclusionary’ conservation approach in vogue currently does not respect the indigenous knowledge and management systems of the local communities. The ban on NTFP collection from Protected Areas (Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks) further has pitted the forest dependent people against the current conservation paradigm.

Since 2005-06, Vasundhara has taken up some major initiatives to identify the biodiversity hotspots in the State, check threats to them, facilitate conservation of threatened sites and species, address livelihood issues and explore the scope for involving local communities in the management of Protected Areas. We are working towards facilitating a debate on the current conservation paradigm at the state and national levels, documenting examples of community conservation and facilitating policy changes and practices to usher in community based biodiversity conservation.

The enactment of the Forest Rights Act 2006 has further broadened the scope for a participatory conservation approach where the communities are empowered to protect, manage and regenerate their own natural resources. Our continued involvement in related issues would not only help us consolidate our understanding but would also provide a strong base to challenge the dominant conservation paradigm as well as to take up legal and policy interventions.

FOCUS FOR THE YEAR 2008-09

1. Biodiversity Conservation
2. Conservation Governance (Protected Areas and Community Conserved Areas)
3. Sustainable Livelihood
Bio-diversity Conservation

Biodiversity Assessment and Documentation in Eastern Ghats of Odisha

Biodiversity assessment of the Eastern Ghats of Odisha is being carried out to document the rich biodiversity of Odisha, map the ecologically sensitive areas and biodiversity hotspots and develop mechanisms to save the fragile ecosystem of the Eastern Ghats. A rapid biodiversity assessment of the Mali hills in South Odisha (part of the Eastern Ghats range of Odisha) was undertaken during the last year. During the survey, the presence of a number of rare and endangered floral and faunal species were reported in the area. New species which have been never recorded earlier from Odisha and even some that are completely new to science were also discovered.

The biodiversity documentation of these areas has proved that there are hundreds of animal and plant species still waiting to be discovered in Odisha.

Mapping of Critical Wildlife Habitat (CWH) in Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalahandi, Odisha.

The Forest Rights Act, 2006 provides for identification of critical wildlife habitats (CWH) in existing and proposed National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. The Act empowers the Gram Sabhas to determine their CFR areas, document their traditional rights and practices, participate in the mapping of the CWH and prepare their own management plans.

Acting on this enabling provision, a participatory research program was undertaken along with the villagers for identification of the critical wildlife habitat inside the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary. The purpose of the study was to develop a field guide for identification of CWH, which would help the community, civil society organizations and government authorities in the implementation process and would ensure that the affected villages are not deprived of their rights during the identification and demarcation of CWH.

The study looked into the ecological aspects such as habitat assessment, species dominance, diversity, disturbance index etc as well as documentation of customary rights/practices of the communities, their resource dependency and interaction. The biodiversity documentation (Flora and Fauna) of Karlapat was carried out with the active participation of the local people. Similarly, the ecological assessment of threatened plants and animals, their habitat, niche, distribution pattern and the traditional knowledge on the bio-resource of the Sanctuary was carried out scientifically and in consultation with the communities living in Karlapat. The remote sensing survey and ground truthing was conducted through quadrats and line transacts to identify the interaction zone between human beings and wildlife within the sanctuary. Similarly, corridors of mega animals were identified with the help of field survey and interaction with the local people (Direct sighting, secondary impressions etc.). The guideline of the methodology to declare the Critical Wildlife Habitat has been prepared.

Conservation Governance (Protected areas and Community conserved areas)

Facilitating and Monitoring Implementation of FRA:

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is the result of a protracted struggle by forest communities to assert their rights.
over forests and forest land over which they have been traditionally dependent. This Act is crucial not just for the rights of millions of tribals and other forest dwellers in different parts of our country, but also for the conservation of biodiversity.

**Empowering community through information technology:**
A dedicated website on the Forest Rights Act (www.fra.org.in) has been hosted and is being regularly updated to inform the people at large about the provisions of the Act. In order to create awareness on the various provisions of the Act and the processes required for it, a 45-minute documentary film titled “SWIKRUTI” has been made. A toll free helpline (18003456771) has been set up to cater to the information needs of the community. A group SMS service has also been started to reach out to the concerned communities to provide timely updates and information on the progress of FRA.

**Participatory learning and implementation:**
In order to help communities, organizations and government authorities realize the objectives of the Forest Rights Act, a comprehensive plan has been drawn up in a participatory manner which seeks to develop process manuals/guidelines and launch interactive orientation programs with key actors involved in the process.

**Interactive orientation programs:**
Orientation programs have been organized in phases for key actors involved in the process of implementation of the Act such as the community and PRI members, civil society organizations and implementing authorities. These programs have covered protected areas and NGOs/Networks in other areas and have tried to build the capacity of FRC members, local youth, PRI members and government agencies.
Sustainable Livelihood

With support from WWF, India and DST, New Delhi, Govt. of India, an initiative was launched in two villages (Sagadabhanga and Guchhabari) of Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary to facilitate sustainable livelihood improvement of the local community living in and around the PA along with the conservation of the PA. Our efforts aim at developing a successful model that enhances the livelihood of the people with the available local resources, which could be later replicated in other places having similar physio-geographical conditions.

After the baseline survey, the area was found to be one of the most NTFP rich areas in the State. Dependence on various forest products were assessed along with the community and training and orientation program undertaken to mobilize people in carrying out research and developing techniques like processing/value addition of NTFPs for sustainable utilization of the resource available, initiating mushroom cultivation and processing of millets so as to fetch higher prices for these products. We collaborated with OUAT, Orissa to support value addition of NTFPs and to provide technical inputs in sustainable practices.

Development Strategy and Approach

Mobilizing collective action: (networking and advocacy)

During this year, we have worked with various organizations and people’s networks at the state and national levels on issues of forest rights and conservation. At the state level, we have worked with Odisha Protected Area Network, Odisha Adivasi Manch, Bhuyan–Juang Pirha Mahasanga, Keonjhar and civil society organizations like JKS, Atragamee, WOSCA, LSNRD, Pragati, Sewak, Seba Jagat, RCDC, Parivartan, Spread, Jagaran, Kartabya, CYSD, OAM and Prakalpa. At the national level, we have worked with the National Advocacy Council for Development of Indigenous Communities (NACDIP), Wada Na Todo and Future of Conservation and have tried to mobilize collective action on the issues of forest rights and conservation.

Biodiversity Conservation

- New species of Flora and Fauna discovered from the Eastern Ghat range of South Odisha
- Check list (along with photographs) of rare, threatened and endangered medicinal and edible plants of Odisha prepared
- A review paper on ‘Biodiversity of Mangrove Ecosystems of Orissa and its conservation’ with special reference to the Bhitarakanika National Park has been published
Conservation governance
At the community/grassroots level:

- Institutions of governance at the grassroots level like Gram Sabha have been strengthened and community has been empowered to use the law and policy in an effective way. They are now actively engaged with government authorities at the SDLC and DLC level.

- In places like Badrama and Karlapat, people have used provisions under FRA to set up innovative processes for effective management of biodiversity and natural resources.

At the government level:

- Information and training support to SDLs and DLCs at Kuchinda and Lanjigarh and Kalahandi and Nayagarh districts has helped government authorities to carry out the process of implementation with proper understanding of the law and its provisions.

- Regular consultation and sharing with the State Level Monitoring Committee and policy makers on issues of implementation has prompted the government to issue necessary directions to facilitate effective implementation of the FRA.

Legal intervention:

- Intervention in the Supreme Court and the High Court in the Forest Rights case has achieved greater coordination between civil society groups and people’s networks and a collective strategy has evolved through the process of constant sharing between these groups.

- The petition against the Forest Rights Act was challenged in the Odisha High Court and the court has vacated the stay order and has permitted the issuing of pattas under the Act.

Outreach:

- Students from institutes like XIMB, KIIT, NIIS, VISVA-BHARATI, TATA-DHAN have been involved in the FRA process.

- Articles on issues like Forest Rights, Biodiversity Conservation have been published in development and conservation journals like India Together, Vedam books, etc.

REFERENCE MATERIALS DEVELOPED

- Copy of FRA and Rules in Oriya
- Hand Book on Forest Right Act (Field Guideline/ Manual) developed in Oriya
- Role and Responsibility of Forest Rights Committee, SDLC, DLC
- How to Fill up Claim Forms
- Model Notices, Model Proceedings
- Translation of Government Circulars/Orders
- Verification and Mapping of Claims
- Grievance And Appeal
Environment & Development
Background

In the past few years, the fight over resources like forest and land has intensified. There has been large-scale environmental degradation due to unsustainable mining and industrialization in the State. The extent of agricultural land losing productivity due to mining activity is estimated to be 5 km/year in the mining areas of Odisha. Mineral-rich blocks like Joda in Keonjhar district have reportedly lost over 20,000 ha of fertile land.

The local economies that primarily revolved around agriculture, forest produce and traditional occupations such as fishery and handicrafts are on the verge of collapse. Employment opportunities in the mining and industry sector have been declining over the last couple of years due to intensive mechanization. Tribals and dalits have suffered the most due to this shrinking of livelihood options.

Since most mining operations in Odisha are of open cast nature, there has been serious environmental degradation in and around the mining areas. Despite legal provisions to protect the environment, the compliance mechanism in the State is very poor. There is very little political will and support to ensure that all defaulting units are punished for their non-compliance.

The over-exploitation of mineral resources has adversely affected land, forests, water, air and even human health. The present environmental governance scenario in the State reflects a grim and dismal reality, which can be attributed to the lack of effective enforcement
and monitoring mechanisms followed by the concerned authorities. Considering these factors, there is a dire need for redesigning the environment impact assessment (EIA) regime to make the environment clearance process genuinely participatory.

In this context, Vasundhara is working to provide civil society with alternatives to address these issues in the greater interest of the people at different levels, particularly for the livelihood security of the poor and marginalised sections of the society.

Achievements

- Sensitized and created mass awareness among common people, pollution affected people, NGOs and CBOs of almost all districts about various environmental pollution issues.

- Developed manuals and booklets in vernacular language on several emerging environmental issues with focus on environmental governance.

- Trained students of two State universities; members of NGOs and CBOs of almost all the districts in the State in various environmental aspects such as EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment), CBM (Community Based Pollution Monitoring) and legal provisions on environment.

- Carried out research activity on various day-to-day environmental aspects and disseminated the findings among various stakeholders.

Research and Documentation

During the last one year, a number of research and documentation studies were carried out by the team on various development related issues such as the impact of open-cast mining on the environment in general and springs and water resources in particular. The team also developed databases on the major minerals and on the industrial profile of the State. The team has initiated research work on emerging issues such as global warming – especially in respect of the adaptation and mitigation needed to cope with the phenomenon. It has also been researching Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) and their implications in the context of Odisha, besides closely monitoring the status of approved CDM projects in the state and doing advocacy work on it.

Advocacy

The team worked for conglomeration of different mechanisms and systems that promote environment protection and conservation through an array of rules and regulations in the State. It used various advocacy tools in its effort to setup a voluntary system that would work
act as a watchdog on implementing agencies of environmental laws in the field of environment and pollution and would follow-up on the implementation of judgements, directions and guidelines. The major advocacy tools employed were letters to the government and other authorities; questions in the Legislative Assembly; complaints on the website of various regulatory agencies; submission of memorandum with signatories; meetings; press conferences; interviews in print and electronic media, etc.

**Training and Orientation**

Over the last one year, a number of training programmes and workshops related to environmental rules and regulations were organized, supported and assisted in various parts of the State. The target groups were students and researchers from universities, CBOs and NGOs from the affected areas and the communities/local people affected by pollution in various parts of the State. The team also conducted various training programmes exclusively for NGOs and CBOs.

The team brought out a number of publications, which include manuals, brochures and booklets on environment-related laws, rules and policies. These publications were prepared to create greater awareness and to sensitize the common masses about environmental issues.

The team established networks with activists, CBOs, NGOs (local, national and international), experts, government institutions, etc. The networking members shared information and exchanged ideas to bring about more meaningful responses on various issues. A number of pollution related issues involving mines and industry were addressed through our interventions. The lack of knowledge-based feedback mechanisms for illiterate people in environmental public hearings was addressed by the team through technical feedback mechanisms. The team has also tried to address urban issues such as mismanagement of biomedical waste in hospitals in Bhubaneswar through legal intervention.

**Learning**

- Addressing various components (layers) of the environmental governance mechanism in the State was a great learning for the team.
- Effective dissemination of generated information and research output among a larger mass, particularly the affected community.
- Bringing out a number of publications on various environmental themes in stipulated time periods was a major learning for the team members.

**Outreach**

The people, the intelligentsia as well as the media are gradually being sensitized to discuss various issues related to environmental governance which, in the long run, can bring about changes.
Future Areas of interventions

- Development of a thorough district-wise database on mines and industries, which will dwell extensively on the implications of developmental projects in different parts of the state.
- Carrying out research work on the social, economic and environmental impacts of developmental activities in the biodiversity-rich Scheduled Areas of the State.
- Study on the water catchment area of one of the major rivers of Odisha.
- Study on climate change in Odisha with a focus on the adaptation and mitigation aspects and possible ways to lessen its impact.
AUDITOR’S REPORT

The Secretary,
VASUNDHARA,
A-70, Sahid Nagar,
Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India.

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of “VASUNDHARA” as at 31st March, 2009 and also Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipts and Payments Account, for the year ended annexed thereto.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the entity’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards generally accepted in India. Those standards require that, we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material mis-statement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosers in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that, our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Excepting as expressed in the Notes on Accounts para 1 to 9 attached and forming part of the Balance Sheet, in our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements read with the annexed notes on accounts gives 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 “VASUNDHARA” as at 31st March, 2009

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

CA. Sanjeeb K. Mohanty,
Proprietor
Membership No-54142
Bhubaneswar, Written on 25th July, 2009
# VASUNDHARA
A-70, SAHID NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 751007
ORISSA, INDIA.

**BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Funds</th>
<th>2008-09 Amount (Rs.)</th>
<th>2007-08 Amount (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITAL FUND</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As per last Balance Sheet.</td>
<td>8,714,827.41</td>
<td>8,383,402.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Transfer to CERF Fund</td>
<td>4,311,776.62</td>
<td>3,314,244.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add Surplus during the Year</td>
<td>449,864.75</td>
<td>492,935.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(UNSPENT GRANT)</td>
<td>8,446,378.85</td>
<td>1,220,438.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Schedule - 1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CORPUS FUND</strong></td>
<td>64,850.87</td>
<td>62,096.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PENSION AND GRATUITY FUND</strong></td>
<td>541,747.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT REVOLVING FUND</strong></td>
<td>4,442,392.83</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>18,348,305.09</td>
<td>9,997,361.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPLICATION OF FUNDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fixed Assets</th>
<th>2008-09 Amount (Rs.)</th>
<th>2007-08 Amount (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schedule (2)</td>
<td>3,594,978.30</td>
<td>3,322,896.30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INVESTMENT</strong></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008-09 Amount (Rs.)</th>
<th>2007-08 Amount (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Bank Balance (Schedule-3)</td>
<td>12,334,998.79</td>
<td>5,613,770.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIC OF INDIA (P&amp; GS)</td>
<td>541,747.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans &amp; Advances (Schedule-4)</td>
<td>445,974.00</td>
<td>177,548.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolving Fund (Schedule-5)</td>
<td>1,509,576.00</td>
<td>998,376.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax deducted at sources</td>
<td>32,944.00</td>
<td>22,264.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security Deposit</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Office</td>
<td>117,500.00</td>
<td>56,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Gas</td>
<td>2,650.00</td>
<td>2,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Telephone</td>
<td>16,450.00</td>
<td>6,450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Fees</td>
<td>138,750.00</td>
<td>125,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Tax on Audit Fees</td>
<td>14,291.00</td>
<td>15,450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDS</td>
<td>25,833.00</td>
<td>929.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Tax</td>
<td>4,055.00</td>
<td>3,430.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provident Fund</td>
<td>65,584.00</td>
<td>58,282.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>248,513.00</td>
<td>203,091.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NET CURRENT ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008-09 Amount (Rs.)</th>
<th>2007-08 Amount (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,763,326.79</td>
<td>6,674,465.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>18,348,305.09</td>
<td>9,997,361.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above Balance Sheet, to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the funds and liabilities and assets and properties of the organisation for the year ended on 31.03.2009.

As per our separate report of even date.

Prasanth Mohanty
Secretary

CA Sanjeeb K Mohanty,
Proprietor.
## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2008 to 31.03.2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>AMOUNT (Rs.)</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>AMOUNT (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To HIVOS - NRM (PROJECT NO IN108 FO4)</td>
<td>7,772,650.14</td>
<td>7,875,448.25</td>
<td>By Grant-in-Aid (Schedule-I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To FORD Foundation- Democratizing Forest &amp; Land Governance</td>
<td>2,274,748.45</td>
<td>By Bank Interest</td>
<td>171,037.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To CONCERN-Ensuring Conservation of NRM</td>
<td>655,829.26</td>
<td>777,536.00</td>
<td>By Staff Contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To CONCERN-Environment</td>
<td>95,710.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>By Community Contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To CONCERN-Ensuring livelihood rights of the forest dependent -Phase-II</td>
<td>3,155,022.84</td>
<td>2,408,462.97</td>
<td>By Membership Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To CWS-Strengthening CFM-Phase-V</td>
<td>225,507.00</td>
<td>203,423.00</td>
<td>By Other Receipts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To AJWS-Expanding spaces for women's voices Phase-II</td>
<td>300,458.91</td>
<td>34,354.00</td>
<td>By Interest on CERF Loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To AJWS-Expanding spaces for women's voices -Ph-III</td>
<td>111,569.00</td>
<td>2,013.00</td>
<td>34,052.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Keystone Foundation</td>
<td>20,013.00</td>
<td>1,944,273.05</td>
<td>By Donation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To DST</td>
<td>92,278.00</td>
<td>200,000.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Community Enterprises Revolving Fund (CERF)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,781.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Staff Welfare Fund</td>
<td>393,227.00</td>
<td>97,449.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To General Fund Expenses</td>
<td>392,444.00</td>
<td>274,402.25</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Loss on sale/damage of Assets</td>
<td>72,732.00</td>
<td>1,690.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Depreciation</td>
<td>564,809.00</td>
<td>522,095.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Auditor's Remuneration - Audit Fees</td>
<td>138,750.00</td>
<td>125,000.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Service Tax</td>
<td>14,291.00</td>
<td>15,450.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Excess of Income over Expenditure</td>
<td>449,884.75</td>
<td>331,424.52</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 17,193,461.35 | 15,549,099.04

The above Income and Expenditure Account, to the best of my belief contains a true account of all the Income and Expenditure of the Organisation for the period from 01.04.2008 to 31.03.2009.

As per our separate report of even date

Pramod Mohanty
Secretary
## CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM
01.04.2008 to 31.03.2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT (Rs.)</th>
<th>PAYMENTS</th>
<th>AMOUNT (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Opening Balance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cash-in-hand</td>
<td>6,739.80</td>
<td>By HIVOS - NRM (PROJECT NO IN108/F04)</td>
<td>8,635,339.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cash-at-Bank</td>
<td>2,655,459.42</td>
<td>By FORD Foundation-Democratizing Forest &amp; Land Governance</td>
<td>2,470,586.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fixed Deposit</td>
<td>2,951,581.11</td>
<td>By CONCERN-Ensuring Conservation of NRM</td>
<td>671,579.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By CONCERN-Ensuring conservation of Natural resources &amp; Environment through peoples involvement &amp; Legal intervention</td>
<td>100,710.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By CONCERN-Ensuring livelihood rights of the forest dependent -Phase II</td>
<td>3,339,290.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To GRANT-IN-AID</td>
<td>22,973,947.70</td>
<td>By CWS-Strengthening CFM -Phase V</td>
<td>225,507.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Foreign</td>
<td>790,687.00</td>
<td>By AJWS-Expanding spaces for women’s voices - Phase II</td>
<td>313,489.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Indigenous</td>
<td>23,763,734.70</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Bank Interest</td>
<td>111,964.56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Foreign</td>
<td>123,268.30</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Indigenous</td>
<td>235,233.36</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Reimbursement of Expenses</td>
<td>35,020.00</td>
<td>By AJWS-Expanding spaces for women’s voices - Phase III</td>
<td>115,569.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Staff Contribution</td>
<td>159,658.00</td>
<td>By Keystone Foundation</td>
<td>2,013.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Other Receipts</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
<td>By DST</td>
<td>301,432.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Donation</td>
<td>45,335.00</td>
<td>By NIRD</td>
<td>220,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Professional Tax</td>
<td>776,838.00</td>
<td>By CUTS</td>
<td>92,278.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Provident Fund</td>
<td>5,302.00</td>
<td>By Community Enterprises Revolving Fund</td>
<td>1,485,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Sale of Assets</td>
<td>1,043,875.00</td>
<td>By Staff Welfare Fund</td>
<td>393,227.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To CERF Loan Fund</td>
<td>395,561.00</td>
<td>By General Fund Expenses</td>
<td>659,455.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Project Contribution</td>
<td>25,833.00</td>
<td>By Professional Tax</td>
<td>44,710.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To TDS Payable</td>
<td>17,180.00</td>
<td>By Provident Fund</td>
<td>769,536.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Programme Advance</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
<td>By Staff Advance</td>
<td>106,208.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Security Deposit (House Rent)</td>
<td>105,680.00</td>
<td>By Tax Deducted at Sources</td>
<td>929.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Programme Advance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- HIVOS - NRM</td>
<td>128,660.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- FORD Foundation</td>
<td>2,550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- CONCERN-Ensuring Livelihood</td>
<td>48,190.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>By Telephone Security</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Security Deposit (House Rent)</td>
<td>111,000.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By CLOSING BALANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Cash-in-hand</td>
<td>24,470.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Cash-at-Bank</td>
<td>6,590,697.99</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Fixed Deposit</td>
<td>5,719,830.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,334,998.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

32,593,838.39

The above Receipts and Payments Account, to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the movement of cash of the Organisation for the period from 01.04.2008 to 31.03.2009.

As per our separate report of even date

CA Sanjeeb K.Mohanty, Proprietor.

Prasant Mohanty
Secretary