

# **Training, Capacity Building and Support for Decision-Making for CFRR Recognition & Management in Bastar District**

## **Summary Report of Activities and Outputs**

For entire Project Period (6 October 2021 to 5 October 2022)

Submitted to  
**Bastar Administration**

by  
**ATREE, Bengaluru**



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# **Training, Capacity Building and Support for Decision-Making for CFRR Recognition & Management in Bastar District**

## **Summary Report of Activities and Outputs For entire Project Period (6 October 2021 to 5 October 2022)**

### **1. BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**

Bastar District is well-endowed with forest (40% of geographical area). More than 80% of its population is likely to be forest-dependent considering that Scheduled Tribes, mainly forest-dwellers, alone comprise 70% of the district population. The Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) provisions under the Forest Rights Act of 2006 (FRA) provide an excellent opportunity to bring about a transformative change in rural livelihoods, and to improve the management of the forests by decentralizing forest governance. In Bastar District, the transformative potential of CFRRs is very high, with more than 400 out of 607 villages holding potential for recognition of community forest resource rights.

By mid-2021, CFRR titles had been recognized in more than 120 villages. However, the District Administration had identified several challenges in CFRR recognition and several issues that needed to be addressed for ensuring post-recognition CFR management for forest conservation and livelihood enhancement:

- a) Lacunae in CFRR recognition in terms of lack of awareness in titled villages and incorrect areas claimed/recognized,
- b) Need to reach more remote and more forested villages,
- c) Need to integrate IFR data into CFRR recognition,
- d) Need to understand and address conflict between villages around CFRR claiming,
- e) Need for clarity and capacity for post-recognition CFR management planning,
- f) Need to interface existing government schemes regarding non-timber forest products (NTFPs) with CFR Gram Sabhas.

To address the above challenges, the administration released an RFP and selected ATREE to carry out the following specific activities (the numbers in square brackets refer to the

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<sup>1</sup> This section is based on the Request For Proposals (RFP) No. 1858/2021/CEO Janpad Jagdalpur dt. 31.07.2021

activity/deliverable number in the “Payment Terms” of the agreement signed between ATREE and the administration):

1. Selection and on-boarding of volunteers/coordinators for FRA work in Bastar district [Part of #2]
2. Training for these FRA volunteers/coordinators in CFRR claim preparation, including use of maps and GIS/GPS as required. [#3]
3. Training officials from Sub-Division Level Committees and District-Level Committees and others in understanding the concept of CFRR claims, in the use of maps and GIS based decision-support systems, and in the process of recognition of CFRR claims. [#5]
4. Developing a GIS-based decision-support system to facilitate the use of maps in preparation and scrutiny of CFRR claims by Bastar district administration. [#6]
5. Training for FRA volunteers/coordinators to develop a CFRR management plan for Gram Sabhas whose CFRR claims have been recognized. [#4] including study tours [#9]
6. Developing a syllabus in Hindi for such training [#1].
7. Providing technical support to FRA volunteers/coordinators as they implement claim preparation and CFR management planning in the initial round of villages. [Part of #2]
8. Developing a strategy for enhancing rural livelihoods through the convergence of existing government schemes and programmes for non-timber forest products (NTFPs). [#10]
9. Identifying reasons for inter-village conflicts and recommending steps to address them [#8]
10. Organizing a policy dialogue and dissemination workshop [#11]

The project agreement was signed and the work order was issued on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021, and the project commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

## **2. BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT**

We summarize here in brief the **activities and milestones** completed with their dates, participation levels, etc. as per the “Payment Terms” in the agreement. The detailed reports of each activity are provided as Annexures to this report.

### **1. Development of Hindi materials**

Available Hindi materials were firstly compiled including FRA Act, Rules, and FAQ compendium, and Chhattisgarh FRA Manual. Then presentations were prepared in Hindi on a) meaning and nature of historic injustice in the context of forest-dwellers in India, b) ways in which FRA addresses these historic injustices, c) the key differences between different types of CRs and CFRR, d) traditional “Nar vyavastha” in the villages of Bastar region, e) nature of administrative maps (revenue, forest, etc) and the need to engage with them in the context of CFRR claim-making, f) working of GPS and use of mobile-based GPS apps for CFRR boundary mapping, g) CFR management planning template, and h) step-by-step guide for CFR claim-making. Videos on the concept of

CFRR (by Chhattisgarh government) and on successful CFR management cases in Maharashtra (Mendha Lekha, Payvahir, Panchgaon) were downloaded and distributed to all workshop participants in all the workshops.

Invoices raised: NIL: Creation of Hindi materials was treated as part of the training workshop preparation processes.

## **2. Selection, deployment and coordination of 15 Community Organizers (FRA Coordinators) for 1 year:**

58 candidates were interviewed. **18 candidates** (all from villages in Bastar district) were eventually appointed as Community Organizers/FRA Coordinators in the project, including 14 men and 4 women, of which 17 were STs. They were trained (see below) and deployed and guided in CFRR claim-making and CFR management planning till 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Invoices raised for 11 full months and 2 part months. Status: Payment received.

## **3. Training of 31 Community Organizers (FRA Coordinators) & volunteers for CFR claim-making**

1<sup>st</sup> Claim-making Workshop conducted on 26-27-28 October 2021. Participants: **18 FRA Coordinators**. Field visit to Gulbha village, Kondagaon district.

Invoice raised for **18 participants**. Status: Payment received.

2<sup>nd</sup> Claim-making Workshop conducted on 22-23 December 2021 & 7 January 2022. Participants: **18 persons** from PRADAN, Bastar Sevak Mandal and village-level volunteers. Field visit to Parond village, Kondangaon district.

Invoice raised for **only 13 participants**. Status: Payment received.

## **4. Training of 31 Community Organizers (FRA Coordinators) & volunteers for CFR management planning**

1<sup>st</sup> CFR Management Planning workshop conducted on 8-9-10 March 2022. Participants: **20 persons**. (FRA Coordinators and civil society volunteers)

Invoice raised for 20 participants. Status: Payment received.

2<sup>nd</sup> CFR Management Planning workshop conducted on 26-27 September 2022. Participants: **20**. (CFRMC members from 5 villages, and volunteers)

Invoice raised for **only 12** participants. Status: Payment received.

## **5. Training of 42 SDLC & DLC members and other officials**

1<sup>st</sup> Training workshop conducted on 13 January 2022. Participants: **35**. (ACTW, SDMs, CEO Janpads, RFOs, Dy RFOs,)

Invoice raised for **30 participants only**. Status: Payment received.

2<sup>nd</sup> Training workshop conducted on. Participants: **18**. (Elected members of SDLC & DLC)

Invoice raised for **12 participants only**. Status: Payment received.

7 Block-level Trainings: conducted: between 7<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> February. **Participants 418** (SDMs, Janpad CEOs, Patwaris, Panchayat Secretaries, Forest staff, FRC members).

Invoice raised: **NIL** (These extra workshops were conducted gratis at the request of the ACTW)

Participation as Resource Persons in Block-level and District-level Trainings organized by ACTW and SDMs: 5 trainings

Invoice raised: **NIL** (Contributed gratis at the request of the ACTW)

## **6. Development of GIS-based Decision Support System**

1<sup>st</sup> milestone: Development of back-end webGIS: completed 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Presented to a 2-person committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Invoice raised for Rs. 3.8175 lakhs. Status: Payment received.

2<sup>nd</sup> milestone: Development of front-end Android app: completed 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Presented to 2-person committee on 13 June 2022.

Invoice raised for Rs. 5.09 lakhs. Status: **Payment PENDING**

3<sup>rd</sup> milestone: Integration of app with webGIS: completed 30 September 2022. Presented to 2-person committee on 7th July 2022.

Invoice raised for Rs. 3.81 lakhs. Status: **Payment PENDING**

## **7. Handholding support for CFR management in 5 sample villages**

## **8. Conflict resolution report for 5 sample villages:**

1<sup>st</sup> Milestone: Preliminary visits and data collection completed in five villages and preliminary report submitted: 2 June 2022.

Invoice submitted for Rs. 0.71 lakhs. Status: Payment received.

2<sup>nd</sup> Milestone: Additional data collection completed and **draft final report** based on 6 sample villages submitted: 20 July 2022. Report also presented at Dissemination Workshop on July 16, 2022

Invoice raised for Rs. 0.94 lakhs. Status: **Payment PENDING**

3<sup>rd</sup> Milestone: Final Report submitted: Feb 2023, Invoice raised for Rs. 0.71 lakhs. Status : **Payment PENDING**

## **9. Study tour of 31 trainees to model CFR villages**

1<sup>st</sup> Study Tour conducted to Panchgaon village, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra on 5-6 March 2022. Participants: **19** (17 FRA Coordinators + 2 volunteers).

Invoice raised for **19** participants. Status: Payment received.

2<sup>nd</sup> Study Tour conducted to Panchgaon village, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra on 17-18 September 2022. Participants: **19** (CFRMC members from 5 villages + FRA volunteers).

Invoice raised for **12 participants only**. Status: Payment received.

## 10. Preparation of NTFP policy brief

1<sup>st</sup> Milestone: Preliminary visits and data collection completed in three villages and preliminary report submitted: 9 May 2022

Invoice submitted for Rs. 1.92 lakhs . Status: Payment received.

2<sup>nd</sup> Milestone: Additional data collection completed and **draft final report** submitted: 20 July 2022. Report also presented at Dissemination Workshop on July 16, 2022

Invoice raised for Rs. 2.57 lakhs. Status: **Payment PENDING**

3<sup>rd</sup> Milestone Final Report Submitted: 2 Feb 2023, Invoice raised for Rs.1.92 lakhs. Status : **Payment PENDING**

## 11. Organizing policy dialogue and dissemination workshop

Division-level workshop organized on July 16, 2022 under the chairmanship of the Divisional Commissioner (Bastar division) and with the participation of Collector Bastar, DFO Jagdalpur, DFO Kanger-Ghati, ACTWs from 5 districts, SDMs from Bastar district, with a **total of 107 participants** including officials and representatives from civil society groups.

Invoice raised for Rs. 4.33 lakhs. Status: Payment received.