

# **Establishment of Center for Culture and Biological Diversity**

**COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL INVOLVEMENT  
ON CBD: Opportunities and Challenges**

**By**

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# INTRODUCTION

- Indigenous knowledge, culture and biodiversity are complementary phenomena essential to human development
- Global awareness of the crisis concerning the conservation of biodiversity is assured following the UNCED held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro

# INTRODUCTION CONTD

- Of equal concern to many people is the uncertain status of the indigenous knowledge and culture that reflects many generations of experience and problem-solving by thousands of ethnic groups across the globe.
- Very little of this knowledge has been recorded

# INTRODUCTION CONTD

- This knowledge represents immense & valuable data base that provides humankind with insights on how numerous communities have interacted with their changing environment including its floral and faunal resources

# INTRODUCTION CONTD

- Local-level knowledge and organizations provide the foundation for participatory approaches to development that are both cost-effective and sustainable.

# SOME OBJECTIVES

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- This Initiative is timely to promote maximization of sustainable benefits to communities
- Conserve biodiversity and genetic resources
- Enhance community participation and hence reverse environmental degradation
- Promote university and community linkages

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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- Sound environmental management
- Emphasis on participatory, multi-stakeholder approaches
- Community participation as critical stakeholders
- Environment, economy and community as major interactive aspects

# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION- RELEVANCE

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- Significant role of community participation and **empowerment**
- Community as key stakeholder and beneficiary of the process
- Ownership and potential for **sustainability**



# ENTRY POINTS TO COMMUNITIES

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- Identify existing structures
- CBOs
- Interest Groups (YG, WG, SHGs)
- CFAs (Community Forest Associations), etc

# APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

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- Participatory rural appraisal-engagement of the community
- PRA forms basis for identification of specific community activities
- Ensures community sustained interest and ownership in natural resource management, including biodiversity, with minimal project support

# APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

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- Village meetings, barazas, seminars and workshops
- Distribution of print material
- Drama and theatre as a social mobilization tool
- Exploration of indigenous knowledge as entry point

# CAPACITY BUILDING

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- Training in basic skills of financial management, leadership and project
- Tailor-made trainings
- Support to formation of community structures (BMUs, FADCs, CFAs, Catchment committees)

# WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

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- Administrative support in community mobilization
- Existing Community structures- BMUs, FADCs, CFAs, Catchment Committees
- Formation of CBOs
- Micro projects- motivating Community participation- livelihoods
- Integrated community projects- maximization of benefits

# OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

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- Resource maximization and diversification, including domestication of biodiversity (setting up eco-villages)
- Identification of successful culturally conserved sites (e.g Ramogi Forest, Kayas) and upscale
- Concept of cultural tourism/cultural sites for income
- Gender sensitization
- Adoption of new food items and eating habits-improved nutrition

# OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

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- Provide for Replication of viable activities by neighbouring communities,
- Meet Community demand for technical support
- Encourage Community exchange tours as a learning experience
- Promote local solutions to conserve biodiversity through IK

# SOME PROPOSED STRATEGIES

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- Partnerships (Communities, State, Other actors)
- Education and Awareness
- Institutional Development and Capacity Building
- Promote biological, sociological and cultural research



# STRATEGIES CONTD

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- Improve livelihoods and provide alternatives to exploitation of threatened biodiversity
- Promoting participatory decision making
- Conduct inventories of knowledge that can be of primary utility in development programs; indigenous approaches to biodiversity resources

# STRATEGIES CONTD

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- Strengthen establishment of conservancies.
- Develop models on access and benefit sharing /research on models
- Environmental easement
- Premiums on land well and biodiversity well conserved

# STRATEGIES CONTD

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- Establish Indigenous knowledge resource centers as vehicles to introduce IK components into formal curricula (at all levels?)
- The Resource Centers as repositories for recorded, stored and screened for potential economic uses and advancing the conservation agenda

# CHALLENGES

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- Concept and strategy of community participation remains elusive and receives inadequate attention in projects
- Community mobilization time consuming and demands more resources than available
- Community perceives project as panacea of solution to all community problems

# CHALLENGES CONT.

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- Communities not homogenous- responses will be varied
- Fishing communities
- Catchment communities
- Pastoral communities

# CONCLUSIONS

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- Community as a primary and legitimate stakeholder in environmental management
- Micro projects relevantly identified bring gains to the community
- Gender balance is not always easy to achieve- it is highly dependent on context.

# CONCLUSION

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- Community participation approaches have been known to have had positive influence on peoples knowledge, attitude and behaviour
- Community participation has contributed to reversal in environmental degradation, hence need to embrace it for biodiversity conservation

# CONCLUSION

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- Need for information and skills is there
- Packaging of information to suit needs of communities is still a challenge
- The concept and strategy of community participation needs to be well understood and appreciated by project implementers to fully exploit the potential of communities



# RECOMMENDATIONS

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- At this Initiative inception, need for stakeholder analysis and sensitization of project implementors on the concept and strategy of community participation
- Apply concept of Integrated resource management (IRM) to ensure optimal utilization of resources at community level
- Micro- projects approach as ideal for community motivation to support project activities

# RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.

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- The need to develop community tailored courses on biodiversity as outreach program for the University
- Networking and collaboration as a central feature to support diverse community initiatives
- Adequate resources at community level for capacity building to upscale activities in areas with direct benefits to communities and potential for environmental impact

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■ THANK YOU