

## Simplified Process Framework Document

### Project Title

Mainstreaming Community--Conserved Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in Nagaland

### Project Objective

To support community-based conservation by mobilising support for the formation of Community-Conserved Areas (CCAs) including larger networks of contiguous forest patches in Zunheboto district of Nagaland, and developing community-based ecotourism initiatives

### Process Framework

Zunheboto district, along with the rest of Nagaland, faces indiscriminate hunting, which along with tree felling and habitat destruction through reduced fallow shifting cultivation (*jhum*), is taking a serious toll on biodiversity. Hunting, a significant driver of wildlife loss leads to potentially cascading effects from unraveling ecological interactions with serious consequences for ecosystems and the services they provide. At the same time, it is a significant protein source, and cultural and traditional way of life practiced by the Sema community of this district. Moreover, the sale of wildmeat provides important revenues. The Sema community traditionally used a variety of traps and snares including the pitfall or fall traps, while fish were caught in baskets or by using rods. However, influx of guns and destructive fishing practices like the use of dynamite or electric currents has transformed traditional low-intensity hunting using indigenous traps and snares. Due to rampant hunting and habitat destruction, wild animals are disappearing from Sükhai and neighbouring villages according to the village elders. The elders of the village have vivid memories of hunting endangered wildlife such as the elephant (*Elephas maximus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Stump-Tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*). However, with time the local biodiversity has dwindled. It is increasingly difficult for the villagers to land a catch, especially big fish from Tizü River which was once flourished in aquatic biodiversity. The local people now recognize how precarious the situation is both for fish and for wildlife populations. Moreover, areas for conserving wildlife are now easier to set aside as the village requires less *jhum* land than before. The poor fish catches in the Tizü river and depleting wildlife populations, prompted the people of Sükhai to set aside abandoned *jhum* lands as a CCA (Community Conserved Areas). They now plan to create a CCA network by linking Community-Conservation Areas of their five neighbouring villages.

Therefore the conservation actions the resource users will take include

- a) Identification and demarcation of areas for the creation of Community Conserved Areas in five villages adjoining Sukhai village based on discussions and consensus in village achieved in council and village meetings.
- b) Establishment of linkages between the CCAs (to ensure that the CCAs provide contiguous areas of conservation, thereby enhancing their efficacy and providing corridors for wildlife movement)
- c) Establishment of bans on hunting, use of destructive fishing practices and fuelwood and timber collection in the CCAs

Although, the exact conservation actions to be taken in these CCAs will be decided by the local people themselves, typically these include (e.g. in Sukhai village, see resolution below)

- A blanket ban on hunting wild animals and birds,
- A ban on fishing by use of explosives, chemicals and generators.
- Strict prohibition of cutting of fire-wood/felling of trees for domestic and/or commercial purposes in the conserved area.

These activities will provide several benefits that will offset the opportunity costs of conservation. These are described below.

By creating and linking CCAs in neighbouring villages, this project will in the long-term benefit the local communities by helping to rejuvenate existing fish and wildlife populations. Moreover, the restriction on access to resources will be localized in extent, limited initially to the confines of the identified CCAs (although the long-term goal will be to try and ensure sustainable fishing and wildlife harvests in general), many of which consist of abandoned jhum lands that are only sparingly used. Therefore, we envisage that restriction of usage of these areas will not impact the livelihoods or survival of local communities. Nevertheless, in the short term, some people may be impacted adversely as their access to these resources is restricted. Care will be taken to ensure that all decisions on conservation actions will be taken by the local communities themselves through their traditional community and village council meetings. The people through stakeholder involvement and engagement with the Sukhai village which has pioneered community conservation will understand the costs of conservation that the project is likely to impose. Only after negotiated settlements will CCAs be created in the villages.

Apart from the many benefits that will result in the long-term from conservation, this project will also help to offset the opportunity costs of conservation by creating a space for ecotourism through education, awareness and capacity building and eventually visits by enthusiasts and ecotourists and resultant enhanced revenues from tourism. These activities may even encourage people to sustainably hunt and harvest and foster conservation efforts at a larger scale, beyond the confines of the CCAs. Moreover, these CCAs represent a revival of traditional conservation and sustainable use efforts. The exact benefits will be determined together with communities to ensure that it responds to local needs and priorities, but typically the specific benefits resulting from this project will be

- Identification of the biodiversity value of adjoining forests, especially in terms of birds and butterflies that will enhance the value of the ecotourism initiatives especially for bird and butterfly watchers
- Documentation of these values and preparation of field guide/ brochure
- GIS mapping of the forests showing wildlife habitats and corridors and preparation of trails and routes
- Trainings on bird watching, bird call recording and play back and butterfly tourism
- Conduct of exposure visits
- Identification and production of handicraft items

- Website development, blogs, posters and signage development

The penalties for non-compliance will be designed jointly by all stakeholders, but might include warnings, fines (e.g. as specified in the resolution for Sukhai village-Fig 1) and social sanctioning.

Fig. 1. Resolution of the CCA of Sukhai village

**OFFICE OF THE  
SUKHAI VILLAGE COUNCIL  
Zunheboto : Nagaland.**

**Ref. No.....** **Dated.....**  
Sukhai  
20/02/2010

**RESOLUTION:**

Consequent upon the state Government directive and Resolutions adopted during the meeting of all Nagaland village councils/VDB's/all communitisation department meeting held at Ganesh Nagar on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2009.


The Sukhai village council and general public adopted to maintain Bio-Diversity Conservation" at Sukhai Village. In this connection " AZHOQHA & YAYI" area declared as community Reserved Forest so as to conserve or preserve the natural resources including living and non living resources and maintain the ecosystem within the village for the present and upcoming generation. It has also resolved to organized village Bio-Diversity board and empower to frame rules/laws and programme for the effectual management functional systems.

Further it is also re-affirm and resolved the following for the concerned citizens and stake holders.

1. Imposed complete blanket ban for Hunting Wild animals and birds, fishing by using explosives, chemicals, generator shall be impose heavy penalty and fine.
  1. Explosives Rs.25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand) only
  2. Chemicals Rs. 25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand) only
  3. Generator Rs. 25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand) only
  4. Coil battery Rs. 25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand) only
2. Village Bio-Diversity board has been given fully empowered to look after the said activities and submit the progress report to the village council periodically i.e. every year, the term of the office shall be period of five years ( 2010 to 2015)
3. Henceforth cutting fire woods/felling trees for domestic or commercial purposes is strictly restricted within the said declared area.
4. Shri.IVAN ZHIMOMI is appointed as Convenor of the Board and empowers to constitute the Board members with maximum limit of 7 (seven) members with two members reserved for women and submit the members list to the village council within the period of one month.

Copy to:

- 1.The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Nagaland for information, Kohima, Nagaland
- 2.The Deputy Commissioner, Zunheboto, Nagaland for information .
- 3.The Additional Deputy Commissioner, Satakha, for information,
- 4.The Superintendent of Police Zunheboto for information.
- 5.The District Forest Officer Zunheboto for information and necessary action.
- 6.All the immediate village council for information and strict compliance.
- 7.All Dailies Nagaland Post/Eastern Mirror/Morung Express/Nagaland Page.
- 8.Office Guard.

  
**(VIKUTO ZHIMO) G.B.**  
V. C. C. Sukhai  
Chairman  
Sukhai Village Council  
Zunheboto Nagaland.