

Addressing Forest Degradation in the Context of Joint Forest Management in Udaipur, India

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Sources used:

Promode Kant, Preet Pal Singh, Ghazala Shahabuddin and Rajeshwar Singh Jasrotia, 2008. India: Bringing a third of the land under forest cover. In: Don Koo Lee (Editor), 2008. Keep Asia Green, Volume III "South Asia". IUFRO World Series Volume 20-III.

FES, Foundation for Ecological Security, India: Project Location Site: Udaipur, Rajasthan:
<http://fes.org.in/includeAll.php?pld=Ml05LTM>

Recent IUFRO-led Scientific Publication Initiatives on Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests in Africa and Asia

1. Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands in Sub-Saharan Africa

Lessons Learned from Selected Case Studies

Presents success and failure of forest rehabilitation in various eco-regions of Africa

<http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/actpro/africa0/>

2. “Keep Asia Green”

Analyses past and ongoing forest rehabilitation and restoration efforts in the Asia Pacific region.

<http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/actpro/keep/>

State of Knowledge – Information Gaps – Research Needs – Policy Recommendations

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Community Development Project

<http://fes.org.in/includeAll.php?pld=Mi05LTM>



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

Foundation For Ecological Security

Tropical dry forests and grasslands (semi-arid eco-zone) in Udaipur District of the north-western state of Rajasthan, India.



Three villages (1500 inhabitants in 350 tribal households)

Foothills and valleys of the Aravalli Hill Range

- Forest land 291 ha
- Pasture 167 ha
- Un-irrigated agric. Land 13 ha

Typical situation in many dryland areas in economically disadvantaged countries

Status of Forest Degradation



Assessment of Forest Degradation

- **Step 1: Socio-economic situation**
 - Growing population with insufficient income
 - Sustenance through government programs and migration
- **Step 2: Reduction/loss of vital goods and services**
 - Insufficient water for human consumption and irrigation
 - Low productivity of agriculture crops and livestock
 - 20% drop of income from forests (fuelwood, grass)
- **Step 3: Status of forest degradation**
 - Low stocking density and loss of tree species
 - Degradation of pasture land (i.e. low grass production, loss of grass cover)

Forest Rehabilitation Projects

Project on natural resource management and dairying

- 40% of total fodder intake of animals from forest lands;
- Bring common land under active village governance;
- Provide legal rights on the usufructs from common lands.



Poverty alleviation through social mobilisation around natural resources management

- Reduce migration to cities for unskilled labour;
- Creation of local employment opportunities.



Development of models of local self-governance at village and inter village level for natural resources management.

- Strengthen decentralisation of governance over natural resources;
- Continued protection of forests and common lands through village institutions.



Results of Forest Rehabilitation Efforts



Results of Forest Rehabilitation Efforts



Conclusions

„Assessment of Forest Degradation“

- Defining forest degradation through a indirect three-tiered approach at the local level
 - Socio-economic situation
 - Reduction of goods and services from forests
 - Status of forest degradation (visual field inspection)

Many rehabilitation projects are based on this type of indirect assessment

Provides the basis/motivation for implementing a forest rehabilitation project;

Conclusions

„Forest Rehabilitation“

- Rehabilitation targets include
 - Increased ground vegetation cover – improved grass production – reduced soil erosion (controlled grazing; check dams etc.)
 - Increased tree biomass – improved fire wood production (forest protection; planting of hedgerows etc.)

Quantifying progress towards achieving the rehabilitation targets requires monitoring of indicators (biological, structural etc.): data on „before – after scenarios“ (on project-by project basis)

Rehabilitation measures lead to higher forest biomass levels, in order to achieve improved productivity. This may or may not be in line with other goals (e.g. carbon, biodiversity etc.)

Conclusions „Investment Strategy“

- Investments into forest rehabilitation
 - Field work (planting; fencing; check dam construction; etc.)
 - Changes in the management of forests through
 - Adequate policies and regulations;
 - Local institutions;
 - Capacities (including retraining of forestry staff); and
 - Employment/markets etc.

Large portions of investments are needed to bring about a social transition to SFM. Otherwise rehabilitation results (e.g. improved production; reduced emissions) are only short-lived.



Thank you for your attention

