

Assignment on EVS

A report on Kohima Forest Conservation

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Brief Introduction about forest conservation

Forest conservation is the practice of planning and maintaining forested areas for the benefit and sustainability of future generations. Forest conservation involves the upkeep of the natural resources within a forest that are beneficial for both humans and the ecosystem. Forests provide wildlife with a suitable habitat for living along with filtering groundwater and preventing runoff.

Forest Conservation in Kohima

Nagaland, a tribal state located in the North-eastern part of India is comprised of eighteen tribes with almost 80% of the natural resources under the control of the communities. It has a rich biodiversity with abundant forest resources. Agriculture has been the main economy and forest the main source of livelihood for these communities. The different Naga communities according to their own specific administrative and institutional structures manage these resources. In recent years, however, there has been a gradual shift in the role of community forest management (CFM).

In this context, this paper attempts to explore specifically about the Angami region (Kohima). The land of the Angami village is individually own and rarely clan or village land. The land is distributed into forest land, terrace fields, land of jhum cultivation and village occupied land. The ownership of land may be classified as common land (this land

refers to the Reserve forest), the village land, clan land and individual land. As stated above, the rampant cutting down of trees for commercial purpose is a major degradation of environment and though the effects are not yet felt by the people. Nearly, 600 truckloads of firewood are sold in the village reflecting the rapid disappearance of forest.

Kohima Village Council and Management of Forest

In Nagaland local communities have their own specific institutions and laws according to their traditions in the management of natural resources. However the Kohima Village councils fails to fulfill the desired goals due to the individual property rights and the the village council has no power to curd it. Some of the problems and challenges faced due rights are :

1. The rampant of cutting-down the trees because the land is individually own by the villagers .
2. Excessive firewood extraction by the people.
3. Chopping down of trees for the production of charcoal for commercial purpose.

JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT (JFM)

Joint Forest Management was initiated to protect and preserved the forest ecosystem which is in conformity with the National Forest Policy of involving the people in the management, development, protection and sharing of forest produce jointly with the State Government and also taking into account the land holding pattern in Nagaland, where execution of any developmental activity is virtually impossible without the prior consent and active co-operation of the landowners concerned.

Objectives of JFM

- To elicit active participation of villagers in (a) creation (b) management and (c) protection of plantations;
- To achieve ecological needs consonant with sustainable productive Forestry;
- To create a wood-based economy for the people

The JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT (JMF) has taken Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary under its Protection.

The Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

Puliebadze has also been declared a plastic free zone with the initiatives from the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Kohima.

Major measure has been taken to protect the wildlife in Puliebadze



SPORTAS

Kohima Forest Division

The Kohima Forest Division launch an initiative called 'Green Box' with the view to spread awareness and educated the masses about the importance of Forest Conseversation. The Kohima Forest Division in Nagaland, under the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change distributed over 50 books in three villages. The packed green boxes contain unused and used books on the environment, conservation, wildlife, and climate change. The initiative aims to reach out to more villages.

The department launched the initiative with the hope of creating 'green libraries' across all the districts, and sensitizing the public about nature and wildlife, reported East Mojo.

The villages were selected from three ranges in the district, including Zhadima village under Chiephobozou range, Jakhama village under Kohima range, and Sendenyu village under Tseminyu range.

Awareness program organized by Kohima Forest Division.

Awareness programme on Forest Fire (Prevention & Management Measures) held at Kigwema Village, under Kohima district on 20th March 2020, jointly organised by Kohima Forest Division and Nagaland Association for Adventure , Mountaineering & Education.



Conservator of Forest, Dr. Kenie Miachieo & DFO Kohima, Rongsenlemla with the staff of the Forest Office Complex, Kohima on 1st October 2019. (DPRO, Kohima)

Conclusion

Today the rich natural resources of Nagaland, which were once under the communities, are fast becoming commercialized. Now, the government had also become a chief agent in commercialization of the natural resources. All these market forces coupled with the increasing consumption level raises many questions regarding the community ownership and control of natural resources. For a sustainable forest resource in the face of market economy and globalisation decentralization of power to the village level is an important factor in the case of Nagaland. Among the traditional tribal societies, there are various value systems attached to the forest. However, the rapid socio-cultural changes and the market forces have little care for the traditional values that has preserved the resources till today. One of the answers for the effectiveness of management system, the preservation of forest and sustainable livelihood is the decentralization of power and providing legal rights and power to the communities.

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