PLAN VIVO PROJECT IDEA NOTE

Project Title- Restoration of barren uplands of vulnerable communities in West Bengal and Jharkhand

Location- Birbhum District in West Bengal and Dumka district in Jharkhand, India

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Developed by:

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FairClimateFund -

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Overview

Project Title:	**Restoration of barren uplands of tribal communities in West Bengal and Jharkhand**
Location:	**Country**- India **State**- West Bengal and Jharkhand **District**- Birbhum in West Bengal and Dumka in Jharkhand
Project Coordinator:	Mr. Saikat Pal-Executive Director, Prasari Email: prasarikolkata@gmail.com Mobile No: 9433234734
Project Area:	Total proposed project area (in hectares)- **4000** (Covering approximately **2700 ha** in Dumka, Jharkhand and **1300 ha** in Birbhum, West Bengal)
Project Participants:	**15000 Farmers** (covering approximately 10,000 farmers in Dumka, Jharkhand and 5000 farmers in Birbhum, West Bengal). These are small holder farmers belonging to the marginalized tribal communities who often migrate to neighboring cities for dailywage labour.
Project Intervention(s):	Restoration of barren uplands by adopting soil and water conservation methods and undertaking intensive plantations to improve the socio-economic conditions of the tribal communities.
Expected Benefits:	The Restoration of 4000 ha of upland will improve the ecosystem of the region, will have positive impact on biodiversity and improve livelihood opportunities of the communities involved in the project. The soil and water conservation treatments will not only help in restoring the uplands by checking soil erosion and recharging ground water, it will also help in improving the medium and lowlands by arresting run-offs during monsoon and improvement in soil-water condition and hence agriculture over a period of time. Since it will be taken up in convergence with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), it will give 100 days of employment to the participating households who otherwise migrate for wage labour. The plantation of trees in uplands would help in carbon sequestration in the long run while the community would benefit from sericulture being supported by Asana and Arjun and also from consumption and selling of mangoes. It will improve the ecosystem of the region, impact biodiversity and provide livelihood opportunities to the beneficiaries. More than 15000 farmers would earn an additional annual income of INR 80,000. Revenue from carbon will be an additional income for the poor communities.

	The Mango trees will provide a flow of good cash income from selling the fruits while trees like Asan, and Arjuna will be extremely beneficial for Sericulture cultivation providing income to more than 15000 farmers. The Sonajhuri tree is one of the tree species that grows well on the soil of that region. Sonjhuri is considered a good timbre species. The tree will be harvested 12 years after plantations and will be used solely for the purpose of building houses etc. The involvement of local governance structure in all stages of implementation of the project will ensure sustainability of the program even beyond the project period.
Methodology:	The project will either apply AR-ACM003, Afforestation and reforestation of lands except wetlands, V2.0, or Small-holder Agriculture Mitigation Benefit Assessment (SHAMBA), V2.0. The decision is still to be made by the Project Coordinators and Project Applicant
PIN Version:	3.0
Date Approved:	10/11/2022

1 General Information

1.1 Project Interventions

Table 1.1 – Project Interventions

Intervention Type	Project Intervention	Expected Benefits
Protection, Restoration and Improved Management	Under the project intervention, Women Livelihood Committees (WLC's)_will be formed. They will ensure protection of the project area as well as community participation during the planning and implementation processes. Along with the team from PRASARI, with the help of WLCs members and leaders, will conduct intensive ridge-to-valley integrated natural resources management planning processes using various PRA tools and techniques such as wealth ranking, social mapping, vision building, livelihood, and watershed planning in the villages. After completing the planning process, WLCs will approve and prioritize various works depending on the project intervention. The WLC's with the facilitation of the field team from Prasari will prepare resource maps. The entire planning monitoring process will be led by the WLC. This includes decision on whose land soil and water conservation activities will take place, considerations of the poverty level of families is also taken into consideration so that Poor families are given priority and preference. The WLC also ensure that the project sites are protected from grazing and any untoward incidences. They take complete responsibility and have designed a system by which two women, in turns, protect the project area specially after the plantations have been undertaken.	A participatory planning with the community specially lead by the women Livelihood Committees will be undertaken where Resource maps of the entire region will be prepared. The soil and water harvesting activities that will be undertaken will be mapped out in the resource maps based on slope and extent of degradation. Also the plantations will be undertaken according to the resource mapping plan.

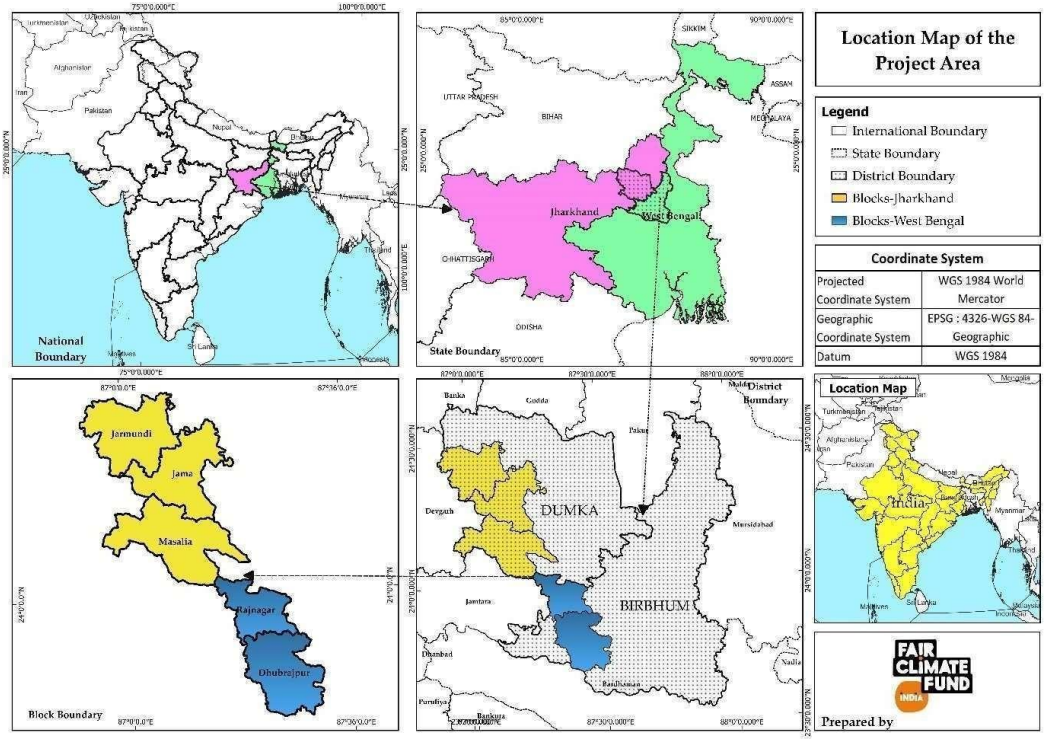
Improved Management	Undertaking Soil and water conservation activities in the barren uplands. Due to slopes and high and erratic rainfall there is heavy soil erosion in the upland areas. It will be taken up in convergence with MGNREGS.	The soil and water conservation treatments will help in restoring the uplands by checking soil erosion and recharging ground water. It will also help improve the soil and moisture content in the medium and lowland areas, reducing run- offs during monsoon. . The increase in soil moisture content will lead to green cover. The treatment of the upland areas also have a direct bearing on the agriculture productivity on the low land regions. Another obvious benefit of this intervention will be the convergence with MNREGS. This government scheme will provide 100 days of employment to the participating households who otherwise migrate for wage labourer in search of work
Restoration	After the soil and water conservation activities will eb undertaken , the moisture and green cover in the area begins to improve., then pit digging for tree plantations are undertaken. Once it's time for the tree saplings to be planted, the WLC members begin the tree Plantations	The plantation of trees in uplands would help in carbon sequestration in the long run while the community would benefit from sericulture being supported by Asana and Arjun and also from consumption and selling of mangoes. The Sonajhuri tree which is a tall tree and grows to the height of 12 meters the tree is mostly harvested after a period of 13 to 14 years . The harvested tree is then sold to the furniture market. Each tree is sold for Rs 8000 which is a good added income to the farmers. It will improve the ecosystem of the region, impact biodiversity and provide livelihood opportunities to the beneficiaries. More than 15000 farmers would earn an additional annual income Revenue from carbon will be an additional income for the poor communities.

1.2 Project Boundaries

Table 1.2 Project Boundaries

Location:	**Country**- India **State**- West Bengal and Jharkhand **District**- Birbhum in West Bengal and Dumka in Jharkhand
Project Region(s):	Total proposed project area (in hectares)- **4000** (Covering approximately **2700 ha** in Dumka, Jharkhand and **1300 ha** in Birbhum, West Bengal)

	Project Region: 2 States (West Bengal and Jharkhand) 2 Districts (Birbhum in West Bengal and Dumka in Jharkhand) 5 Blocks (2 in Birbhum- Rajnagar, Dubrajpur and 3 in Dumka- Jama, Jarmundi, Masalia) **Area in Hectares- 4000** (Covering approximately **2700 ha** in Dumka, Jharkhand and **1300 ha** in Birbhum, West Bengal)
Project Area(s):	**Project Area:** 2 States (West Bengal and Jharkhand) 2 Districts (Birbhum in West Bengal and Dumka in Jharkhand) 5 Blocks (2 in Birbhum- Rajnagar, Dubrajpur and 3 in Dumka- Jama, Jarmundi, Masalia) **Area in Hectares- 4000** (Covering approximately **2700 ha** in Dumka, Jharkhand and **1300 ha** in Birbhum, West Bengal)
Protected Areas:	Ballabhpur Wildlife Sanctuary near Santiniketan was declared a sanctuary in 1977.[50] Economically important trees are planted here and blackbucks, spotted deer, jackals, foxes and a variety of water birds live in its 2 km^2 (0.8 sq mi).[50][51][52]



1.3 Land and Carbon Rights

Describe the ownership, tenure, user rights or management rights of the project area(s), and how these relate to the carbon rights of project participants.

The land under consideration is private land and belongs to the community who will be the beneficiaries of the project. The land is private owned lands. The farmers have title deeds to their lands. Most lands are owned through inheritance and there are no tenure issues on the land.

In the project area under consideration, the land in both the districts are currently upland areas where soil erosion is high and the due to lack of any irrigation facilities it has mostly been left barren. All the farmers are small holder farmers where typically the land holding of each farmer is less than an acre. Since all the land holdings are privately owned so any benefits accrued from planting trees, crops, benefits from soil and water conservation activities, regeneration activities, carbon rights will belong to the individual landowner.

There are no land tenure conflicts associated to land ownership or land rights in the proposed project area.

All farmers have access to their title deeds and to further strengthen the rights to carbon the project proponent intend to sign an agreement with the farmers to ensure the same.

2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.1 Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholder Group	Category	Relationship with the project
Panchayati Raj Instituti (PRI)Representatives ons	Primary	Development of Gram Panchayat Development Plan prioritizing vulnerable communities and integrating climate change components into the plan.
Women Collectives (Self Help Groups-SHGs and Women Livelihoods Committee-WLC, Farmer Producer Organizations-FPOs)	Primary	Community management of resources including land, water and plantation, collectivization, value addition and marketing of agri-horti and sericulture products.
MGNREGA Cell-Block/District/State - Secondary stakeholders	Secondary	Providing 100 days of employment to the participating households for work on land and water conservation, land development, pit digging, fencing etc. for soil-water conservation, plantation in uplands.
Different departments of the Government including Forest,Agriculture, Sericulture etc.	Secondary	Technical skills and expertise on forestry, agriculturesericulture for implementation of the project.
Entrepreneurs and Retailers	Secondary	Procurement of inputs and selling and distribution of finished products
Research Institutions like Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK)/ Agriculture Universities	Secondary	Technical support in terms of climate resilient crops and crop practices, tree species etc.

Fair Climate Fund	Primary	Will be providing carbon advisory services to Prasari and will be closely engaged in the validation and verification process of the project. FCF will also act as a catalyst between investors and Prasari. FCF's involvement will also support Prasari in conceptual, strategic and policy guidelines for project implementation along with providing a forum for interchange of experience and information.

2.2 Project Coordination and Management

The Applicant Organisation is Fair Climate Fund India Private Limited.

Fair Climate Fund India Pvt Ltd. Is registered as a private limited company as per the regulations of the Government of India.

Long-term objectives of the organisation: As a social enterprise FCF will work on Carbon projects with various stakeholders to ensure that vulnerable communities have a direct and long term socio-economic and environmental impact through the sale of carbon credits generated.

Brief history of projects and current projects: Involved in various projects with different stakeholders in varying capacities as an investor, carbon project developer providing technical skills and knowledge in the development of carbon projects across different countries, as well as brokering with private sector to ensure a fair pricing for the carbon so Relevant Experience of FCF

Climate Resilient Assessment for rural villages

The climate audit was conducted to assess the vulnerability of each village towards the impact of climate change and identify the possible interventions for consideration to make the agriculture and livelihood system more resilient. The multiple sets of information were assessed for completing the climate audit that includes impact of climate change and resources/opportunities available to minimize risk and market needs and adaptability for the target group

Clean Air and Healthy Soil

Clean Air and Healthy Soil is a unique soil carbon sequestration project which addresses the severe crop residue burning issue in North India in an environmentally sustainable and cost-effective manner. The project integrates Sustainable Agriculture Land Management (SALM) practices as a solution to stubble burning. The project ensures nutrient recycling, carbon sequestration, water conservation, weedicide savings, improved yield, climate resilience of crops, and change in farmer's behaviour, which is the primary reason for burning. The adopted practices bring significant improvements to farmer livelihoods, such as improved air quality, and the entire rural ecosystem.

Climate Change study for Fairtrade Rice Producers in India

FCF is working on Fairtrade NAPP's project to develop a climate change strategy for Fairtrade Rice producers to help them adapt to climate change. The study intends to focus on quantifying emissions from current scenario and implementing strategies to reduce carbon emissions while recognising the devastating impacts of climate change and the necessity to develop a more sustainable way of production. The study is planned with the Fairtrade Certified Producer Organisations, who are growing rice in Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand in India.

Pan-India Program for Sustainable Agricultural Land Management

FCF India is developing a nation-wide Carbon financing project for farmers by partnering with the Private sector/NGOs/Autonomous bodies, disbursing them knowledge, and consolidating the agricultural land holdings to implement Sustainable Agricultural Land Management (SALM) practices. These activities will increase soil carbon sequestration through improved cropland management, and reduce GHG (CO_2, CH_4, N_20) emissions by reduced crop residue burning, mulching, composting, growing green manure crops, using more organic fertilisers, reducing biomass burning and agroforestry.

Friesland Campina assessment in dairy value-chain

Friesland Campina (FC, Netherlands) is working to design a NetZero strategy for the organization and intends to become carbon neutral by 2050. FC and FCF are working together to plan and execute the preliminary work for assessing emission reduction opportunities in the Dairy sector aligning with Fairtrade principles. The assessment is focused on designing of possible interventions and indication on quantum of impact going to be generated in future. This is providing perspective and directions for FC/FCF to design a successful carbon project separately or in various combinations like soil carbon sequestration, biogas, manure management etc for Dairy farmers.

Carbon financing for shea farmers in collaboration with Global Shea Alliance (GSA)

FCF, GSA and CO2logic are working together to plan and execute the preliminary work for assessing new and innovative carbon financing opportunities in the Shea Value Chain. We are helping GSA to finalize the mobilization structure of carbon financing towards shea farming and upliftment of socio-economic conditions of shea farmer community especially women farmers. Besides this, FCF India is helping GSA to develop carbon project separately or in various combinations like afforestation/reforestation, sustainable agriculture land management, energy efficiency system within shea processing, soil organic carbon for better yield and productivity.

Carbon Neutral Tea Value Chains in India with FLOCERT

Under FCF's parent organization ICCO conducted a study on carbon neutral value chains for tea produced in India that is consumed in Europe or the United States. The study was carried out in partnership with FLOCERT under different tea estates which are Fairtrade certified. The study also focused on developing carbon credit project for tea estates worker communities.

Climate neutral coffee value chain in Ethiopia

FCF has calculated the carbon footprint of the coffee value chain in the coffee sourcing area Oromia. We have implemented CO2 reduction measures, like cookstoves at household levels and supported the capacity building of the PO's on climate change, via de Climate Academy, together with Fairtrade Africa.

Study in Cotton Value Chain

FCF through its parent organization ICCO was engaged in a study on the life cycle GHG assessment of organic cotton value chain in India. The study was carried out in partnership with Accenture with a specific objective to create a report on GHG emission profile at each stage of the cotton value chain. Apart for estimation also identify potential GHG emission reduction opportunities at a high level.

Cooperation with NFO's and SPO's like Fairtrade Finland, Fairtrade Africa and potentially other NFO's in Europe, like Fairtrade Netherlands

Fairtrade Finland is leading a fund application for the Finnish government including the development and implementation of the Fairtrade Carbon Standard within value chains of cocoa, coffee, flowers and vanilla. Aim is to do both mitigation and adaptation. It involves countries like in Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia and Madagascar. This fund application is for 5 years. Private sector parties trading in these commodities are involved and co-finance this project, while FCF will support in the footprint calculation and carbon project development, registration and issuance of Fairtrade carbon credits.

Bird Bees & Business (in Burkina Faso)

The Birds, Bees & Business project combines the restoration of biodiversity, climate and business activities in the shea value chain in Burkina Faso. ICCO/ FairClimate Fund and Bird Life Netherlands work together to create a rich landscape that provides food and a sustainable income to local communities, while nature can restore itself. Economy and ecology are linked in a unique way.

Carbon Financing Landscape in WASH Sector

FCF in partnership with Aqua for All conducted a study for analysing the carbon financing landscape for WASH sector. The study analysed the existing WASH projects those have successfully mobilized carbon finance and assesses potential cases that can also be eligible to access carbon finance in the future. The assignment also compares the various carbon standard and associated methodology available in the market and its applicability in different conditions. The study focused in various countries in Asia and Africa, out of which Burkina Faso and Ghana are also part of that.

Cookstove Project in Bangalore: This project reduces CO2 emissions, harmful indoor smoke and deforestation through the introduction of efficient cookstoves in the Bengaluru region of India

Personnel to be involved in the project:

1) Director: More than 14 years of experience in the field of Climate Change working with national and international organisations on carbon development projects. Projects ranging from clean and renewable energy, Sustainable agriculture, cookstoves etc.

2) Climate Specialist: More than 14 years of experience in the field of Natural resource Management, mitigation and adaptation projects in India and South Asia. Has experience in REDD plus, Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, cook stoves among other carbon projects.

3) Senior Carbon Business Developer: more than 6 years of experience working on climate change projects, developing state action plans for climate change, closely working with carbon developers across the Asia region on carbon projects.

4) Carbon Partnership Consultant: Has more than 20 years of experience with the most prominent NGO's in India working on Sustainable Agriculture practices. Has a grounded understanding of communities and their livelihood specially in the project region Has a strong understanding of government programs and policies

Fair Climate Fund will provide the required technical expertise to the Project Developers on matters relating to preparing the Emission Calculations or any other technical assistance required in the project.

PRASARI (legal name -Rajarhat PRASARI) is the Project Coordinator Organization. The organization has a 15 years of track record of working with the poor and tribal households in different agro-climatic zones, responding to the diversified climate challenges. In this project women managed people institutions (SHGs and WLCs-formed in the hamlets with the representation of women from the households) have been facilitated to plan watershed management activities. The fallow uplands are planned to be covered with the plantations and in-situ soil water conservation activities, whereas the mid and lowlands will be treated with organic input-based agriculture activities. The participatory planning generated activities are to be implemented through MGNREGA and other Government program funding. Plantation activities are to be done in individual lands of the Member of the Women Livelihood Committees (WLC) and should initially be funded for their establishments. Safeguarding and ensuring the survival of the plantations are the responsibilities of the individual

households. The project organization will bear the responsibilities of building capacities of the community (mostly Scheduled Tribes) and their institutions.

Technical functions: Participatory planning of the watershed activities with the communities, technical skill building of the community and the volunteers, management of Integrated Natural resource Management (INRM) and plantation activities and their linkages with carbon and livelihoods.

Administrative functions: Adhering to the Government laws and policies, liasoning with the investors and converging departments.

Social functions: Building social capitals-in like Women Livelihood Committees, building large scale awareness on carbon and climate change.

Legal status: Rajarhat PRASARI, registered under societies registration Act-1961, Government of West Bengal, India

Long-term objectives of the organization: To work with and for the poor for their well-being.

Brief history and achievements:

The Organization was set up in 2007 and has been working in partnership with the Government to reach out to the larger masses of the poor in the disadvantaged areas. Integrated natural resource management is the approach PRASARI works with. Three formal partnerships between Panchayats and Rural Development Dept. Government of West Bengal (GoWB) and PRASARI namely Jharnadhara in the hills, Usharmukti in the plateau, and Dwipanjali in the coastal Sundarbans to leverage the program to fund almost 200 Crores from MGNREGA, adapting hydro-geological management techniques for livelihoods generation. Engagement with the British Geological Survey to host the studies on groundwater and demonstrate participatory groundwater management techniques. The water resource department (GoWB) has engaged PRASARI as a resource Organization to support spring rejuvenation activities. World Bank-supported program at Meghalaya has engaged PRASARI as the spring Initiative partner to expand their program across 6000 villages in the State of Meghalaya.

Personnel to be involved in the project with details of relevant skills and experience

Saikat Pal, ED. 22 years of Experience in INRM, Watershed management, Surface and groundwater management, Livelihoods, and peoples' institution

Gouranga Banerjee, PD, 22 years of experience in Peoples' Institution, INRM, and livelihoods, Livelihood financing, capacity building for livelihoods.

Ranik Seth, TL, 6 years of experience in INRM, Watershed management, Surface water management, Livelihoods, and peoples' institution

Soumya deep Sana, Executive (Projects), 3 years' experience in INRM, Watershed management, Surface water management, Livelihoods

Executive projects: at least 10 such personnel will be employed with technical degrees with experience varying from 1 to 3 years.

Table 2.2 Responsibility for Project Coordination and Management Functions

Project Coordination and Management Function	Responsible Party/Parties
Stakeholder engagement during project development and implementation	PRASARI
Ensuring conformance with the Plan Vivo Standard and compliance with applicable policies, laws and regulations	FCF
Developing technical specifications, land management plans and project agreements with project participants	FCF and PRASARI
Ensuring that the PDD is updated with any changes to the project	FCF
Registration and recording of land management plans, project agreements, monitoring results, and sales agreements	FCF and PRASARI
Managing project finances and dispersal of income to project participants as described by the benefit sharing mechanism	PRASARI
Managing Plan Vivo Certificates in the Plan Vivo Registry	FCF
Preparing annual reports and coordinating validation and verification events	PRASARI
Securing certificate sales and other means of funding the project	FCF
Assisting Project Participants to secure any legal or regulatory permissions required to carry out the project	PRASARI
Providing technical assistance and capacity building required for project participants to implement project interventions	PRASARI
Monitoring progress indicators, livelihood indicators and ecosystem indicators and providing ongoing support to project participants	PRASARI
Measurement, reporting and verification of carbon benefits	FCF

2.3 Project Participants

The proposed project participants are the indigenous community of the proposed project area and all the interventions will be done by themselves. The project activities will be carried by the Women Livelihood committees. These committees will consist of tribal women from the pilot project areas. See Section 2.4 for more details.

2.4 Participatory Design

The project intervention is built around the leadership of local communities, especially the women. Women Livelihoods Committees (WLCs) at the village level would be the drivers of the project. Women from the project villages, especially the tribal women, will constitute the WLCs. They will be imparted several trainings at the beginning of the project to enable them to ensure community participation during the planning and implementation of the project.

Women community leaders will be identified from among the WLCs together with Community Volunteers who will help in carrying out intensive ridge to valley integrated natural resources management (INRM) planning at the village level. They will use various Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools and techniques such as wealth ranking, social mapping, vision building, livelihood, and watershed planning in the villages to make the plan inclusive and prioritize the needs of the marginalized communities based on gender, age, ethnicity, religion and social status. Priority will be given to poorest of the poor families, single women, destitute, elderly, schedule caste and schedule tribe, minority groups etc. Prasari staff will facilitate the entire process together with the community

leaders and volunteers to ensure that the concerns and aspirations of the marginalized communities are considered and addressed through the project interventions.

There will be farmers' producer organizations (FPO) at the block level to take care of the forward and backward linkages of livelihood activities such as marketing of horticulture produces, Tasar and other related livelihood activities. Local youths will be identified, groomed, and hosted in the FPO as service providers or entrepreneurs who will earn their livelihood by providing various services to the community for ongoing livelihood-related activities. These FPO's are groups of farmers who belong to the economically backward communities and have been economically and socially excluded for a very long time. Through interventions of this project, the aim is to build the capacities of the FPO's through various training and capacity building programs and also link them to ongoing government schemes etc that will bring about a substantial impact economically a swell as socially.

There will be two different implementation strategies. In West Bengal, initial capital investment for the plantation activity will be mobilized from MGNREGA however the maintenance cost for two years will come from the carbon fund where the investors will invest into the project. PRASARI's role in West Bengal will be to engage with the MGNREGA cell and influence the state government officials and the Panchayati Raj Institutions to implement the plan prepared by the Gram-panchayats and releasing of payments for the work done under MGNREGA. However, in Jharkhand, all the investment will come from the carbon fund. In this state, PRASARI's professionals will be engaged directly with the community and their institutions to ensure on-time quality implementation of the project.

2.5 FPIC Process

The community engagement is there from the beginning of the project and the project has been carefully designed with participatory approach and integrating ideas of the participating communities through FPIC and conducting meetings and expert interviews to ensure that project activities will continue even after the project life. Even before the project implementation begins, each village was consulted at length using Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) procedures and also through a series of consultations, focused group discussions, participatory rural appraisals (PRAs) and training of the community members . The communities have been clearly appraised about the project design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), cost, risks and engagement of all stakeholders along with their roles. Engagement was undertaken in English, Hindi and Bengali (the local languages), to ensure full participation and development of transparent project process.

The Project will follow the FPIC protocols through its entire lifetime and it has, and it will document any lessons learned that can improve future actions. This can better guide the actions of the organization in future projects and diminish future risks and challenges

The agreement will be made with the Project Participants i.e., the indigenous communities to get their consent to the project. A proper project-level grievance mechanism will be set through which grievances are managed. This will ensure broad community level confidence and support to the project. Project will ensure to disclose any financial or nonfinancial compensation provided to community members as part of the engagement process.

In this Project as important stakeholders, women will be organized into SHGs, WLCs and FPOs and will be involved in preparing village-level micro-plans, work schedules, doing community-based review of activities and protecting and maintaining plantations and various conservation structures.

To further strengthen the rights to carbon there will be a signed agreement with the farmers to ensure the same. The community members will be engaged at all levels of the project implementation, from decision making, to monitoring of the project.

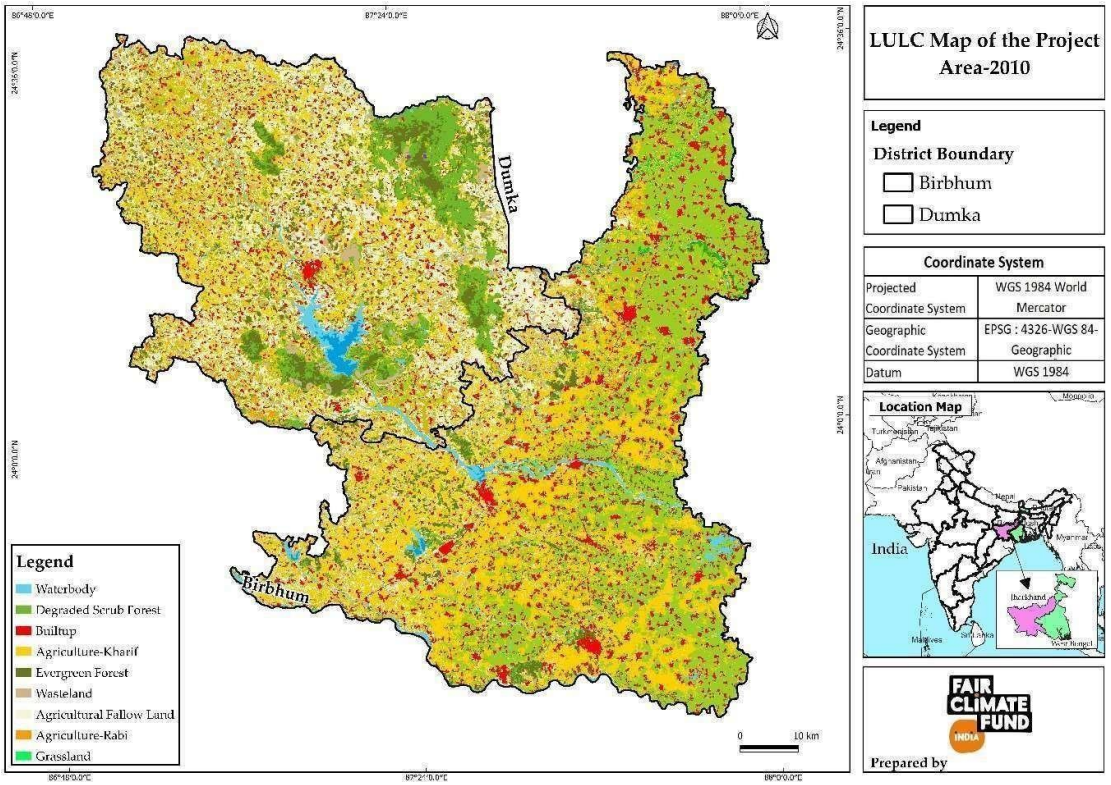
Photo: Women involved in the preparation and planning of the resource maps of their Villages

Prasari team facilitating the discussion while preparation of Resource maps.

3 Stakeholder Engagement

3.1 Baseline Scenario - Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

In the absence of the project intervention, the uplands would remain fallow and soil erosion and deterioration of ground water table would continue to become worse. The soil health and hydrology of the medium and lowland would also continue to deteriorate. In the absence of a sustainable source of income, the people in the area would continue to migrate to other cities and states making them and their families even more vulnerable.



3.2 Livelihood Baseline - Socioeconomic Status of Participants

Most of the population in the proposed project area belong to marginalised tribal and schedule caste social groups and are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. The proposed villages are dominated by the Santhal tribes, an integrated part of the central Indian tribal stretch locally called as Adivasis. The vulnerability of the population is amplified by changing climate conditions resulting in less and erratic rainfall, which impacts on their food security. A large section of these households are sharecroppers as they have very limited ownership of the land and water resources. As husbands migrate to the cities to find work, women farmers here face the increased burden of looking after their family, growing food, and generating income.

People are dependent on monsoon rains for farming, there is large scale degradation of natural resources, little occupational diversification and high seasonal unemployment resulting in migration to urban areas.

Based on an external study undertaken by Parsari where 250 Households belonging to the project area were surveyed and in the survey 83% respondents reported that the women from the HHs are part of some Self-Help Group (SHG). 67% of the respondents mentioned that they were doing cultivation in only Kharif season however additional 15% of them mentioned that they were performing agriculture activities in both Kharif and Rabi. This implies total 82% respondents' involvement in agriculture. INR 6,482 was average income per HH from agriculture and INR 3,949 was average cost of agriculture per HH.92% of the respondents reported Wage labour agri & non agri as the prominent livelihood source. Assessment of earning members data

indicated that there were more opportunities for Agriculture labour as ~74% people were involved in Agriculture as labours, 9% were involved as labours in Brick work and 17% reported engaging in both-Agri and Non-Agri (mainly brick work). While Agriculture wage labour resulted in average income per person of around INR 13,349/-, Brick work offered higher income opportunity with average per person income of around INR 33,514/-. This was largely due to the higher number of days of work availability for these people. INR 197 per day was the average wage rate that was reported by the majority for both males and females. Overall INR 30,047/- was reported as the average per HH income through wage labour.

40% of the Surveyed respondents reported local Migration of family members mainly to Burdwan for Agriculture work and Birbhum for brick & mason. Migration offered higher wage rate at an average of INR 218/- with maximum daily wage reported as INR 250/.

30% 0f the total responded are depended on Forest product. 14% of total income of the family also contributed by this source.

In a gist there is high dependency on agriculture for self sufficiency and food nutrition security but due to lack of resources they are able to use their land for only one season for growing crops. They are dependent on daily wages or even resort to migration for cash income.

3.3 Ecosystem Baseline - Ecological Conditions

The proposed districts of West Bengal and Jharkhand are the poorest districts of India. The government has recognized it as an aspirational district as it is characterized by particularly poor socio-economic indicators.[2]
The area is featured by hilly, undulating terrain, soils are rich in iron and aluminium and while they are one of the best natural materials to be used in bricks, they are acidic and cannot retain moisture.[4],[5] the region has degraded forests, moderate rains, high concentration of people belonging to Schedule Tribe communities. The area represents an endemic poverty zone with over 80% households earning their livelihoods from subsistence farming and collection Of NTFPS from forests.

Birbhum and Dumka are adjoining districts of two adjoining states **West Bengal** and **Jharkhand**. They are majorly inhabited by the Santhali tribe for centuries now.
Jharkhand: The state shares a border with Chhattisgarh State and Uttar Pradesh State in the west, West Bengal State in the east, Bihar State in the north, and Odisha State in the south. Most areas of the state are hilly and undulating terrains which come under the Chota Nagpur Plateau, the west and central parts are highly mountainous and gradually lower in the east, south, and north. The river Ganges flows through the west to the south part of the state, and other major rivers include Son, Barakar, North Koel, South Koel, Baitarni, Subarnarekha, and Damodar. About 49 % of the geographical area is agricultural land and around 30 % is under forest cover. Precipitation of this state varies from 1000 mm in the west-central part to 1500 mm in the southwest, mainly bringing by the southeast monsoon during mid-June to October of each year.
Dumka district in Jharkhand is part of Santhal Paragana Commisionery and is located in the north eastern part of the state. Total geographical area of the district is 4410 sq. km.
Topographically the district is an upland tract with a hilly backbone running from north to south. A narrow but long strip of alluvial soil which is between the Ganga and Rajmahal hills, flank the north east side. There are several hill ranges like Rajmahal hill, Ramgarh hill, Lagwa hills with several small hillocks. The average elevation of the hill ranges between 150 to 300 metres. Geologically the area has basaltic trap and sedimentary beds. Quartz and gneisses are found in some places. Major rivers draining the district are Ajay, Mor, Barakar, Brahmani etc.
Owing to its position near West Bengal and hilly landscape of the region climatic condition is slightly different from the rest of the state. The district receives an annual rainfall of 1500 mm. and most of the rainfall occurs during the rainy season. During winter season the temperature varies between 16 to 21 0 C and during summer season it varies between 22 to 32 degree Centigrade.
Forest is mostly present in patches in the district. Because of the human intervention forest has not been spared even on hills. There are a few reserve forest situated in Dumka district. The vegetations generally traced in Dumka district are timber species like Shisham, teak, Gamhar, Mahua, Semal.
Some of the species are below:

Local Name	Botanical Name	Local Name	Botanical Name
Ain	Terminalia tomentose	Palas	Butea frondosa
Bans	Dendrocalamus Strictus	Salai	Bswellia serrata
Gurari	Cleistanthus Collins	Anjan	Hardwickia binata
Kusum	Schleichera oleosa	Bija	Pterocarpus marsupium
Sagon	Tectona grandis	Neem	Azadirachta indica
Semal	Salmalia malabarica	Ber	Zizyphus jijuba
Tendu	Diospyros malabarica	Khair	Acacia farneiana
Aonla	Diospyros melanoxylon	Dhaora	Anogeissus latifolia
Shisham	Dalbergia sissoo	Amllas	Cerssia fistula

West Bengal: West Bengal has 4692 sq.km. of forests under protected area network which is 39.50% of the State's total forest area and 5.28% of the total geographical area.

From the famous Royal Bengal tiger that stalks its prey with legendary cunningness in the Gangetic delta of famous Sundarbans, to the one-horned Indian Rhinoceros grazing in the Terai grassland, the leopards lurking in the foothills of the Himalayas and Red Pandas resting in bamboo groves of Himalayas.

The forests of this state has a rich assemblage of diverse habitats and vegetation designated with the help of eight different forest types. The diverse fauna and flora of West Bengal possess the combined characteristics of the Himalayan, sub-Himalayan and Gangetic plain.

Diversity is further reflected in different types of ecosystem available here like mountain ecosystem of the north, forest ecosystem extending over the major part of the state, freshwater ecosystem, semiarid ecosystem in the western part, mangrove ecosystem in the south and coastal marine ecosystem along the shoreline.

Birbhum district in West Bengal is bounded on the north and west by the Santal Parganas of Jharkhand state, on the east by the districts of Murshidabad and Burdwan; and on the south by Burdwan, from which it is separated by the Ajoy river.

Lateritic soil of Birbhum district made a different topography which is known as "khoai region". Another important topography is flood plain. Birbhum is well drained by a number of rivers and rivulets running in nearly every case from west to east with a slight southerly inclination. Birbhum is under the semiarid ecosystem region. The district can be divided into four landscape ecological zones (LCZ), namely, Plateau (Buried Pediment) ecosystem with Lateritic landscape, Alluvial Plain ecosystems, Aquatic and Terrestrial ecosystems and Forest ecosystem.

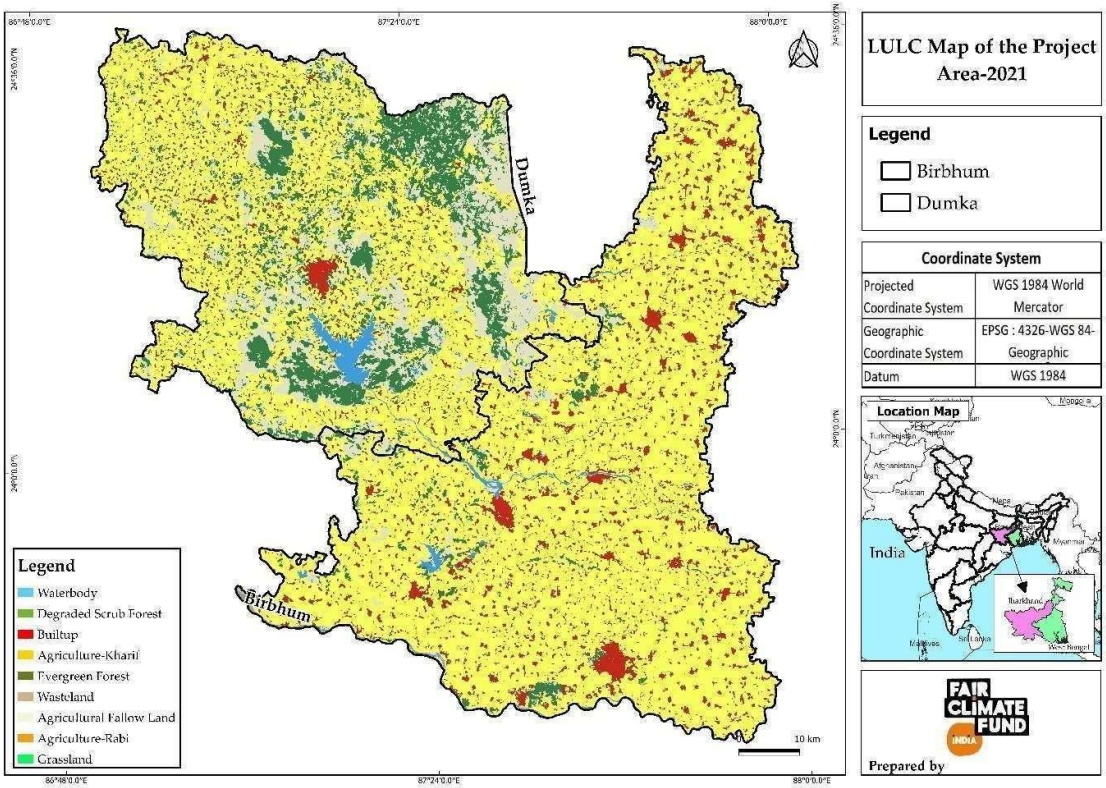
The fauna of Birbhum: The eastern portion of the district is a continuation of the rice plain of West Bengal, and the vegetation is characteristics of rice fields in Bengal generally, species of Aponogeton, Utricularia, Drosera, Dopatrium, Ilysanthes, Hydrolea, Sphenoclea and similar aquatic or palustrine genera being abundant. In the drier undulating country to the west the characteristic shrubs and herbs include species of Wendlandia, Evolvulus, Stipa, Tragus, Perotis, Spermacoce, Zizyphus , Capparis and other similar plants affecting a laterite soil. Trees like mango , palm, bamboo are frequently found. Other abundant species are jack, arjun, sal, piar, dhau, kend and mahua.

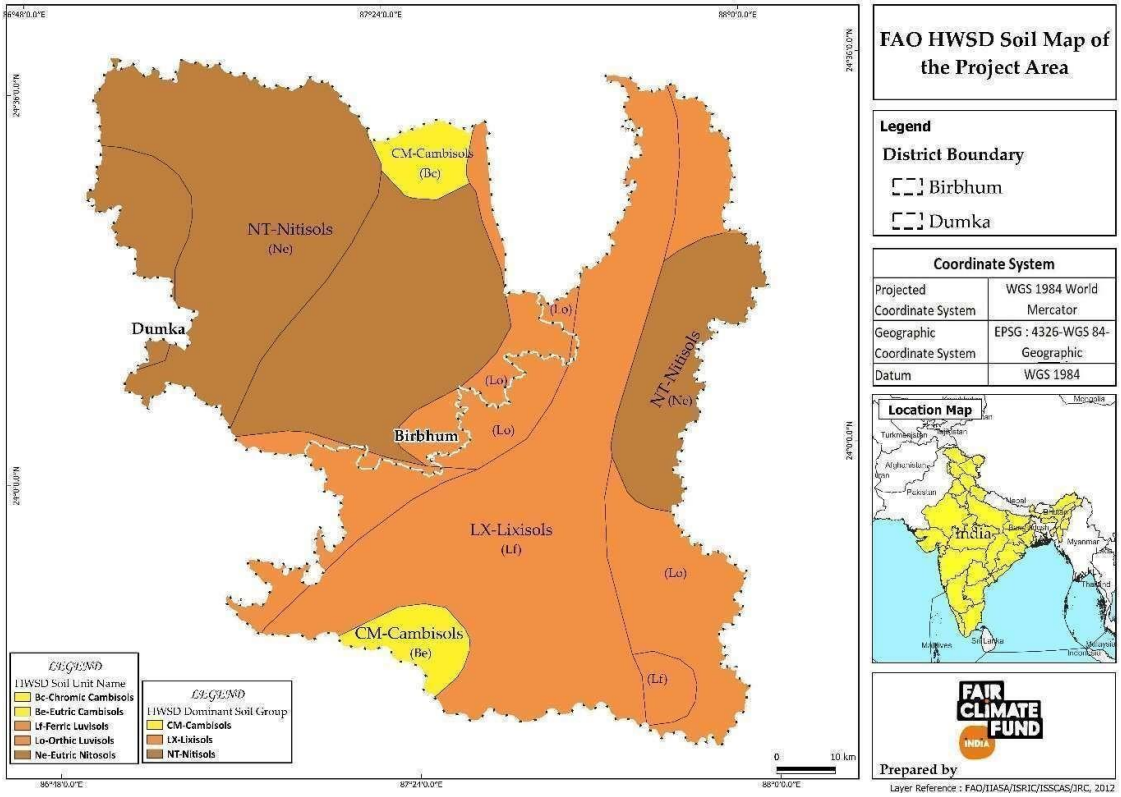
[2] Singh, K. & Meena, M S & Singh, R.K.P. & Kumar, Abhay. (2013). Socio-Economic Determinants of Rural Poverty: An Empirical Exploration of Jharkhand State, India. SSRN Electronic Journal. 10.2139/ssrn.2017593.

Photos below: **the terrain and soil erosion in the region**

[4] Gopal, Chandra & Debnath, & Mondal, Prolay. (2014). Effects of Ecogeomorphological Parameters on Environment: Case Study of Birbhum District, West Bengal. 3.

[5] Ahmad, Firoz & Goparaju, Laxmi. (2017). Geospatial Approach for Agroforestry Suitability Mapping: To Enhance Livelihood and Reduce Poverty, FAO based Documented Procedure (Case Study of Dumka District, Jharkhand, India). Biosciences Biotechnology Research Asia. 14. 15. 10.13005/bbra/2491.


LULC Map of the Project Area-2021
Legend
Birbhum
Dumka
Coordinate System
Projected Coordinate System
WGS 1984 World Mercator
Geographic Coordinate System
EPSG : 4326-WGS 84-Geographic
Datum
WGS 1984
Location Map
India
Prepared by
Dumka
Birbhum
Legend
Waterbody
Degraded Scrub Forest
Builtup
Agriculture-Kharif
Evergreen Forest
Wasteland
Agricultural Fallow Land
Agriculture-Rabi
Grassland
10 km


FAO HWSD Soil Map of the Project Area
Legend
District Boundary
Birbhum
Dumka
Coordinate System
Projected Coordinate System
WGS 1984 World Mercator
Geographic Coordinate System
EPSG : 4326-WGS 84-Geographic
Datum
WGS 1984
Location Map
India
Prepared by
Layer Reference : FAO/IIASA/ISRIC/ISSCAS/JRC, 2012
CM-Cambisols
(Bc)
NT-Nitisols
(Ne)
Dumka
Birbhum
(Lo)
LX-Lixisols
(Lf)
(Lf)
LEGEND
HWSD Soil Unit Name
Bc-Chromic Cambisols
Be-Eutric Cambisols
Lf-Ferric Luvisols
Lo-Orthic Luvisols
Ne-Eutric Nitosols
LEGEND
HWSD Dominant Soil Group
CM-Cambisols
LX-Lixisols
NT-Nitisols
0
10 km

3.4 Project Logic

Table 3.4 Initial Project Logic

Aim The project aims to restore the ecosystem health and improve the livelihood opportunities, resilience and food security of rural communities through adoption of more productive and sustainable resource management practices that are technically feasible and socio-economically viable.		
	Description	**Assumptions/Risks**
Outcomes – Intended overall project aim		
Carbon Benefit	Adoption of an integrated ecosystems approach for natural resource management in Dumka and Birbhum districts of Jharkhand and West Bengal respectively generating local, national and global benefits including restoration of degraded land, carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, agro-biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and improved agricultural practices, leading to enhanced resilience and income of rural communities.	Strong commitment in the states for climate action Resource available at the Gram Panchayat level that may be used for climate resilient actions Fluctuations in the Carbon Market
Livelihood Benefit	Since the land and water conservation and plantation in upland will be done in convergence with MGNREGS, the participating households will get 100 days of employment together with creation of productive assets. They will also benefit from consumption and selling of mangoes in the short term and Asana and Arjuna trees being the host plant for sericulture will ensure a sustainable source of income for the project beneficiaries. Revenue from carbon will be an additional income for the participating households. More than 15000 families will earn and additional annual income of INR 80000 from the practice of silk cultivation[i]	Willingness of the community in restoring the degraded upland and taking up alternate livelihoods options that may reverse migration and provide them with a sustainable income earning opportunity.
Ecosystem Benefit	The soil and water conservation treatments will not only help in restoring the uplands by checking soil erosion and recharging ground water, it will also help in improving the medium and lowlands by arresting run-offs during monsoon and improvement in soil-water condition and hence agriculture over a period of time. The plantation of trees in the upland will improve the ecosystem of the entire region, impact biodiversity and also provide livelihoods opportunity to the community.	These can be taken up in convergence with MGNREGS which will not only provide 100 days of employment to the participating households but will also help in reversing migration and creation of productive assets.

Outputs		
Output 1	Strong community institutions including women SHGs, WLCs and FPOs in place at the village, cluster and block level and their knowledge, skill and capacity enhanced for development, implementation and monitoring of climate resilient plans and sustainable management of land and livelihoods.	Participation of members of the community institutions in Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha and in the planning process might be low but it will be ensured through visioning exercise, using PRA techniques for social and resource mapping, INRM planning and livelihoods planning.
Output 2	4000 Ha of upland restored through land and water conservation and also plantation of trees supporting livelihoods of participating households in the short term as well as long term. The restoration of upland would also improve soil health and hydrology in more than 7000 hectares of medium and lowland and hence agriculture and income of the tribal communities practicing agriculture in these lands.	Mortality of young saplings due to lack of water, nutrition, pest attack and grazing. This will be minimized through adoption of improved package of practice including use of organic manure and pesticides, regular watering by the community in the absence of rain, digging of cattle proof trench all around to curb grazing.
Output 3	Sustainability built into the programme through convergence with mainstream programmes for input support related to agroforestry, land and water conservation.	Change in the leadership and hence priorities of the government. This can be mitigated through building relationship with Government Extension Officers who are not affiliated to any political party but leading the development. Efforts will be made to build the social capital by promoting community institutions, conducting participatory planning process, awareness generation of the community on MGNREGA so that community and their institution can claim their rights and entitlements on their own.

3.5 Additionality

Table 3.5 Initial Barrier Analysis

Project Intervention	Main Barriers	Activities to Overcome Barriers
Restoration	The targeted community lack the financial resources to undertake any such planned treatment in the region. They depend on daily wages to make a living and do not have either the finances or the technical skills to undertake this scale of work	The project facilitator will ensure a planning process that they will converge the government program with the planned initiatives in the region. This will provide community with daily wages and get the land treatment done. The generation of carbon for the project will further facilitate the plantation and improvement of the soil and water health along with improved biodiversity
Restoration	The target communities lack knowledge and skills that can improve the land area and reverse the degradation process	The project intervention ensures that appropriate land treatment plan is prepared for the entire region. Technical experts and other assistance is provided to ensure that the land area is treated in accordance with the requisite understanding of the geophysical conditions and an appropriate plan is designed. The capacity building of the community is also ensured for long term sustainability of the project.
Improved Management	The target communities are poorly organised and also mobilisation is limited. The remoteness of communities, lack of infrastructure exacerbates the problem further.	Under the project the communities will be organised in a way that enhances the implementation operations on field. There is a going to be a continuous capacity building and trainings in all the relevant areas for the communities. Trained field coordinators specifically assigned for training and capacity development will be employed.
Improved Management	Remote areas where access to mainstream support is difficult	Structure and management plan will help Prasari reach the

		communities in the remote areas.
Protection and Improved Management	Cultural barriers towards accepting new systems and changes. Since the communities live in very remote areas, there is lack of information access about new methods and practices that can benefit them and improve land productivity	Sensitizing communities about different methods and practices Holding meetings with community leaders and women ground to build their confidence and acceptance towards newer practices. Also strengthening relationship with local governance.

3.6 Exclusion List

Activities	**Included in Project ('Yes' or 'No')**
Any project activities leading to or requiring the destruction [1] of critical habitat [2] or any forestry project which does not implement a plan for improvement and/or sustainable management.	No
Any activity which could be associated with the significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection of cultural heritage (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).	No
Trade in animals, plants or any natural products not complying with the provisions of the CITES/Washington convention [3].	No
Destructive fishing methods or drift net fishing with a net more than 2.5 km in length, explosives and/or poison.	No
Large-scale commercial logging operations for use in primary tropical moist forest.	No
Production or trade in wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests [4].	No
Exploitation of diamond mines and marketing of diamonds where the host country has not adhered to the Kimberley Process.	No
Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour [5] or harmful child labour [6].	No
Projects that include involuntary physical displacement and/or forced eviction.	No
Production or activities that encroach on lands owned, or claimed or occupied by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples.	No
Production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone layer depleting substances [7], and other toxic [8] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's [9], wildlife or products regulated under CITES, including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally	No
Production or trade of arms, ammunition, weaponry, controversial weapons, or components thereof (e.g., nuclear weapons and radioactive	No

ammunition, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, cluster bombs, anti -personnel mines, enriched uranium).	
Procurement and use of firearms.	No
Provision of finances to military institutions involved in conservation or security activities.	No
Production or trade of strong alcohol intended for human consumption or other alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).	No
Production or trade of tobacco and other drugs	No
Gambling, gaming establishments, casinos or any equivalent enterprises and undertaking [10].	No
Any trade related to pornography or prostitution.	No
Production or trade in radioactive material. This does not apply to the procurement of medical equipment, quality control equipment or other application for which the radioactive source is insignificant and/or adequately shielded	No
Production or trade in unbound asbestos. This does not apply to the purchase or use of cement linings with bound asbestos and an asbestos content of less than 20%.	No
Production, trade, storage, or transport of significant volumes of hazardous chemicals, or commercial scale usage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals include gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products.	No
Transboundary trade in wastes, except for those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations [11].	No
Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage [12].	No
Production and distribution, or investment in, media that are racist, antidemocratic or that advocate discrimination against a part of the population.	No
Projects involving the planting or introduction of invasive species	No
Projects that increase the dependency of primary participants and other stakeholders on fossil fuels.	No

3.7 Environmental and Social Screening

Table 3.7 Environmental and Social Risks

Risk Area	Potential Risks
Vulnerable Groups	Yes, there are vulnerable groups in the project area who are less able to cope with livelihood shocks and the proposed project is designed to make them more resilient through improving their livelihoods and enabling them to manage their resources in a better manner. The district Birbhum and Dumka, falls under the plateau dominated by the central Indian tribals. The project area is dominated by the tribal population

	The projects work with tribes that still have very primitive ways of living. They have some very distinctive features which set them apart from the regular tribal communities. They still rely on hunting and gathering, are generally very shy and little interaction with groups outside their own community, live in very remote areas and have extremely low levels of food nutrition security. The project also works with economically and socially marginalised tribal communities and their focus within the communities is strongly on women who are further marginalised.
Gender Equality	Since the project is focussed on women, it seeks to reduce gender-related inequalities through empowering them socially, politically and economically.
Human Rights	The project does not prevent people from fulfilling their economic and social right, rather it works towards improving their livelihoods and in turn their health, standard of living etc. By including them in community institutions and enhancing their capacities, they will be empowered and enabled to exercise their social rights.
Community, Health, Safety & Security	The project by design will ensure that at any time health safety and security of community members will not be compromised. All interventions being undertaken as part of the project ensure this aspect. While work on the field areas will be supervised by community leaders and ensure any untoward incidents are avoided. All necessary precautions for safety and security as well shall eb ensured.
Labour and Working Conditions	The project is aligned with the payment terms to men and women as per the government norms and hence there are clear employment terms in the design of the project itself. There are no foreseen occupational health and safety risks for the project beneficiaries .The work is in their own farmlands and the community sees it as a great advantage to have the support of all the village working on their farmlands. That is how it is planned.
Resource Efficiency, Pollution, Wastes, Chemicals and GHG emissions	Most of the activity is centred around Soil water conservation which has no elements of pollution or waste generation. They will be using farm tools and equipment's and no use of any machinery will be undertaken . Hence

	there is no source of emissions. There is no foreseen wastes of any kind even during the plantation process and nochemical usage whatsoever in the project
Access Restrictions and Livelihoods	There would be no access restrictions as the project activities will be taken up on private lands of the communities that would help in improving their livelihoods and resources on a sustainable basis.
Cultural Heritage	There is no cultural heritage attached to the project area.
Indigenous Peoples	The project will involve tribals and other communities. However, no Particular Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) are present within the project area. The project area belongs to the tribal communities and they will have the carbon rights, and all associated co benefits . The project will in no way negatively affect indigenous people through economic displacement or affect any of their legal or customary rights.
Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	The project includes 4000 ha of plantation that will help in improving the biodiversity of the area, in addition to providing sustainable livelihoods options to the beneficiaries in terms of sericulture, horticulture, timber etc. The soil and water conservation methods adopted would help in restoration of the degraded upland as well as positively impact the medium and lowlands.
Land Tenure Conflicts	Since the project activities will be taken up in private and leased land, there would be no land tenure conflicts.
Risk of Not Accounting for Climate Change	Since the communities involved in the project depend on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, horticulture, erratic rainfall and occasional drought might influence the effectiveness of project activities.
Other – e.g. Cumulative Impacts	No other negative impacts

3.8 Double Counting

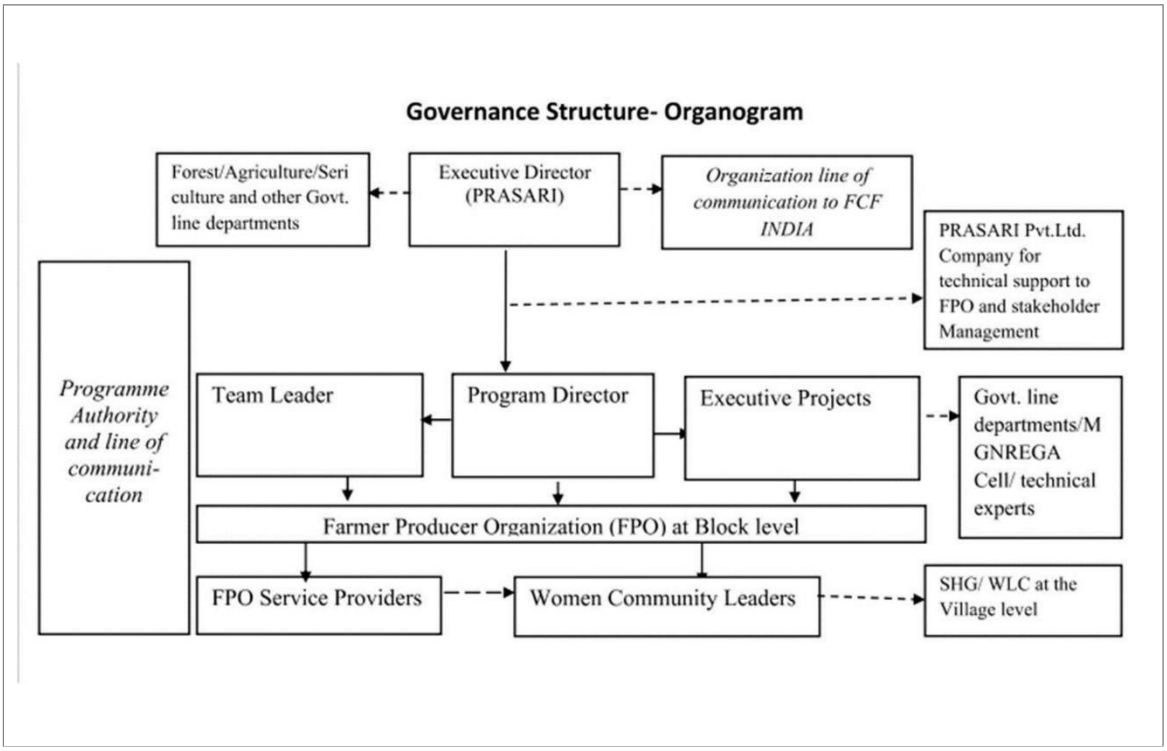
The Project Coordinator and Project Applicant will ensure that double counting of GHG emission reduction or sequestration is prevented. The Project will use the applicable guidelines and will provide the required evidence/undertaking to the Plan Vivo to confirm that the reductions or sequestration generated by the project will not be used in the emissions trading program or for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with the binding limits that are in place in the national/ sub-national jurisdiction or sector. There is also a written commitment of this from the Coordinating agency Please refer to Annex 5.

Table 3.8 National Level Legislation, Policies and Instruments

	Yes/No/Unsure	Details
Is there a national registry for land-based carbon projects?	No	
Are carbon rights defined in national legislation?	NO	
Are there any carbon pricing regulations existing or in development (e.g. emissions trading scheme or carbon tax)	No	
Does the country receive or plan to receive results-based climate finance through bilateral or multilateral programs?	Unsure	
Are there any other relevant regulations, policies or instruments?	Unsure	

4 Governance and Administration

4.1 Governance Structure



4.2 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Identify the authorities with overall responsibility for land management and greenhouse gas emissions assessment within the project region. Include evidence that they have been informed of the project in Annex 5, and explain how they will be engaged during project development. Provide a statement that the project will operate in full compliance with all national and international policies, laws and regulations.

Rajarhat PRASARI
E-mail : prasarikolkata@gmail.com
Head Office : 662/2, Baishnabghata (2nd Floor, Flat-2B) Patuli, Baghaiatin, Kolkata-700 086

Statement of Intention/Undertaking

Rajarhat PRASARI is a not-for-profit organization, registered under West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. The organization was established in 2007 and led by professionals to work with and for the rural families towards their secured and sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing. PRASARI has been working with over 60000 rural families across variety of agro-climatic regions in West Bengal, India, through its field-based teams of Professionals.
PRASARI is implementing a project entitled "Restoring barren uplands in the tribal communities of Birbhum and Dumka district of West Bengal and Jharkhand" respectively.
The proposed project does not fall under any jurisdiction and PRASARI will ensure that there will be no double counting of carbon credits. There will be no other Carbon emission reduction project undertaken in the same Project area.

The proposed Project will be implemented by PRASARI with the support of Fair Climate Fund India Private limited.
This is also to state that Rajarhat PRASARI will comply with relevant national and international climate change and environmental sustainability regulations. It will be ensured that all activities will adhere to various protection and conservation norms and laws and not be in contravention to any established social or traditional norms or practice.

Sanjat Pal 19/8/2021

Rajarhat PRASARI WB Kolkata

Registered under The West Bengal Societies Registration Act. Act. X XVI of 1 961)

4.3 Financial Plan

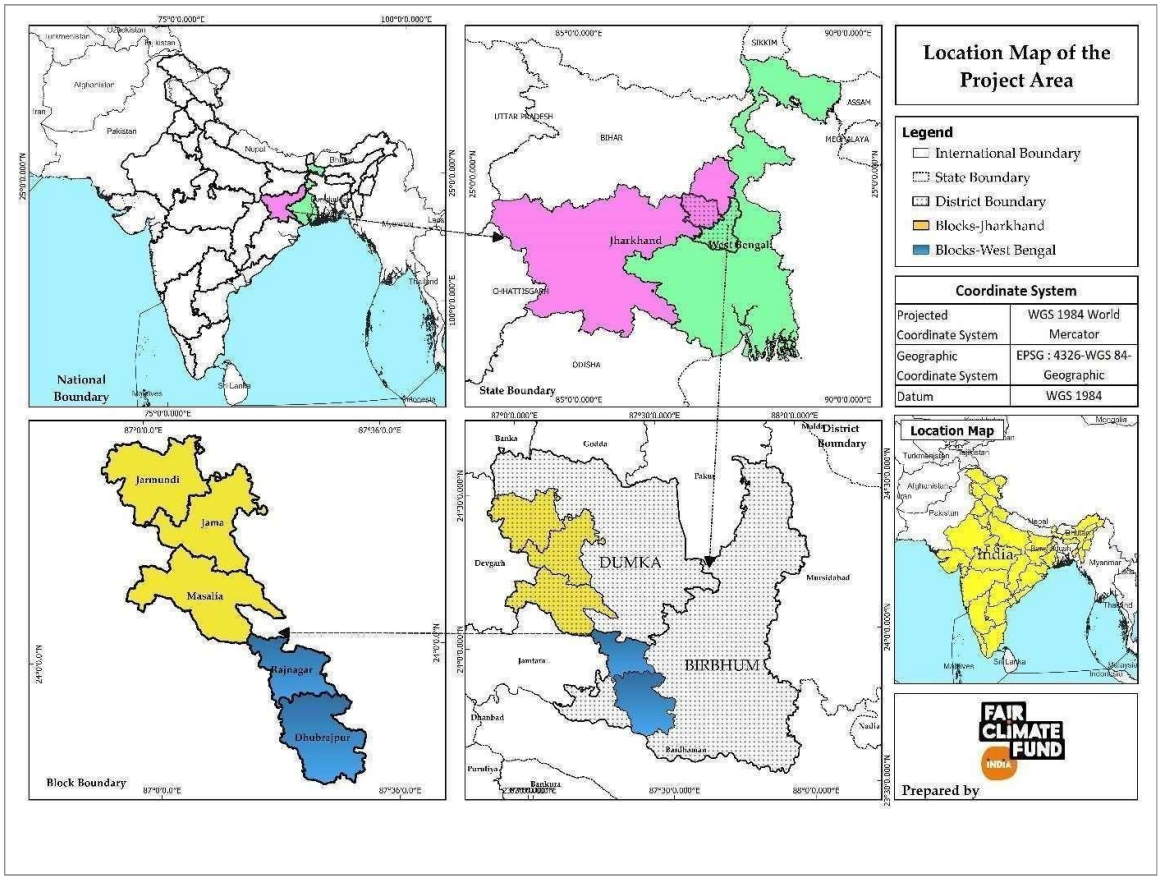
Describe how the finance required to fund project development will be obtained.

A detailed and realistic financial plan has been prepared and the project is already under discussion with potential investors. The investors have shown positive interest in the project, they are aware of the benefit sharing mechanism under the Plan Vivo Certificates and have so far continued to show their interest. Once the investor and PP have agreed on the terms the Project, the project implementation will begin.

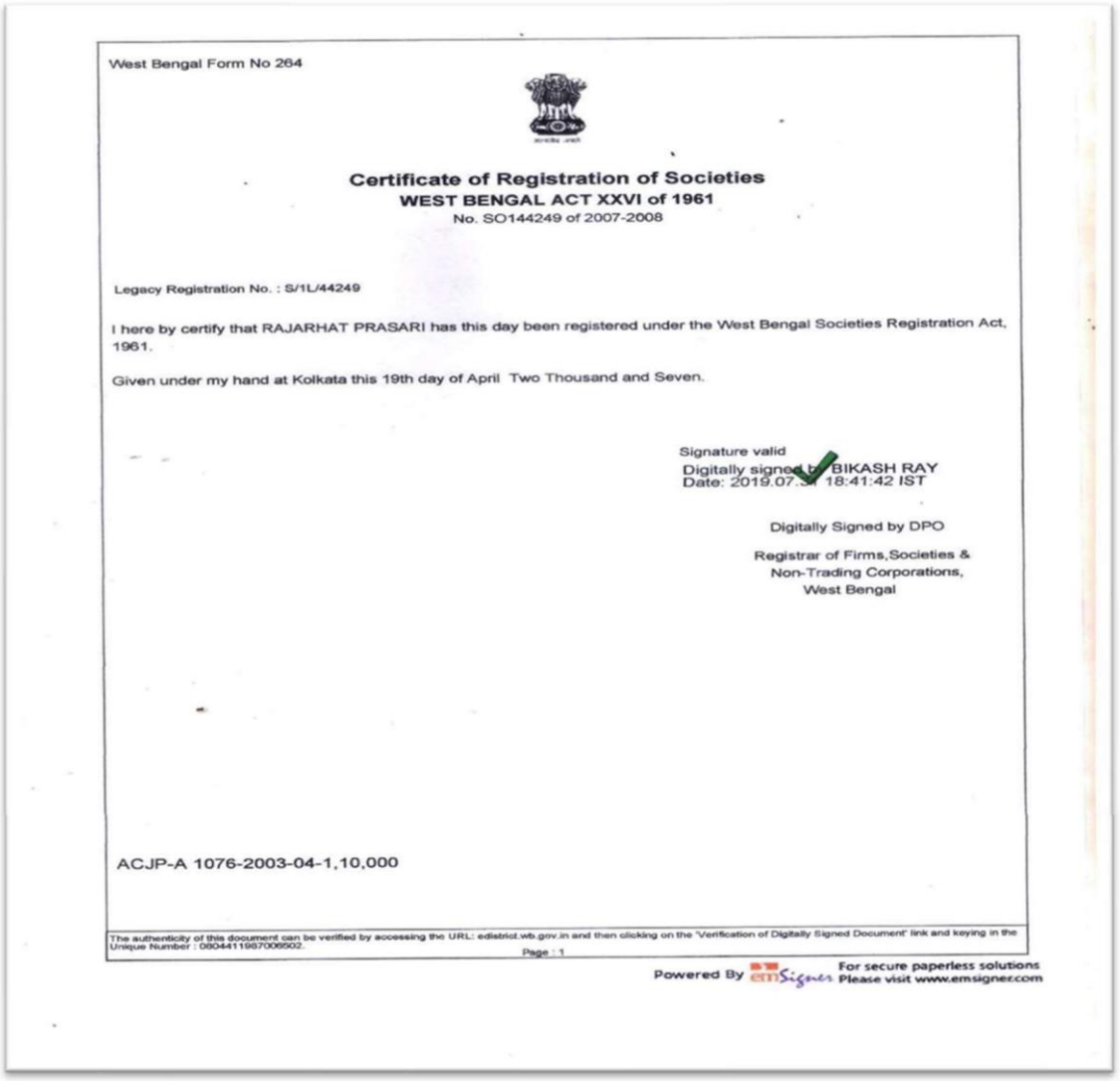
Also, a major part of the initial project activities is going to be undertaken through government funded programs which are already assigned by the government for the region. This way the project implementation will take off in time.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Project Boundaries



Annex 2 –Registration Certificate



West Bengal Form No 264

Certificate of Registration of Societies
WEST BENGAL ACT XXVI of 1961
No. SO144249 of 2007-2008

Legacy Registration No. : S/1L/44249

I here by certify that RAJARHAT PRASARI has this day been registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961.

Given under my hand at Kolkata this 19th day of April Two Thousand and Seven.

Signature valid
Digitally signed by BIKASH RAY
Date: 2019.07.3[illegible] 18:41:42 IST

Digitally Signed by DPO

Registrar of Firms,Societies &
Non-Trading Corporations,
West Bengal

ACJP-A 1076-2003-04-1,10,000

The authenticity of this document can be verified by accessing the URL: edistrict.wb.gov.in and then clicking on the 'Verification of Digitally Signed Document' link and keying in the Unique Number : 080441197006502.

Page : 1

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West Bengal Form No. 264.

রেজিষ্ট্রেশনের পর প্রতি বছর কি সব (বলতে) রিটার্ন জমা দেওয়া বাইনতঃ বাধ্যতামূলক।

Registration granted in anticipation of the information/forms stated in the documents being correct and true.

Certificate of Registration of Societies

WEST BENGAL ACT XXVI of 1961

No. S/1L/144245 of 2007-2008

I hereby certify that Rajarhat Prasari ..

has this day been registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961.

Given under my hand at Kolkata

this Nineteenth day of April

Two thousand and Seven

REGISTRAR OF FIRMS, SOCIETIES & NON-TRADING CORPORATION - West Bengal

ACJ—1076—2003-04—1,10,000

Registrar of Firms, Societies & Non-Trading Corporations, West Bengal.

Annex 3 – Exclusion List

Complete the exclusion list by responding 'Yes' if the activity is included in the project and 'No' if the project does not include the activity.

Activities	**Included in Project ('Yes' or 'No')**
Any project activities leading to or requiring the destruction [1] of critical habitat [2] or any forestry project which does not implement a plan for improvement and/or sustainable management.	No
Any activity which could be associated with the significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection of cultural heritage (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).	No
Trade in animals, plants or any natural products not complying with the provisions of the CITES/Washington convention [3].	No
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Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour [5] or harmful child labour [6].	No
Projects that include involuntary physical displacement and/or forced eviction.	No
Production or activities that encroach on lands owned, or claimed or occupied by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples.	No
Production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone layer depleting substances [7], and other toxic [8] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's [9], wildlife or products regulated under CITES, including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally	No
Production or trade of arms, ammunition, weaponry, controversial weapons, or components thereof (e.g., nuclear weapons and radioactive ammunition, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, cluster bombs, anti -personnel mines, enriched uranium).	No
Procurement and use of firearms.	No
Provision of finances to military institutions involved in conservation or security activities.	No
Production or trade of strong alcohol intended for human consumption or other alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).	No
Production or trade of tobacco and other drugs	No
Gambling, gaming establishments, casinos or any equivalent enterprises and undertaking [10].	No
Any trade related to pornography or prostitution.	No
Production or trade in radioactive material. This does not apply to the procurement of medical equipment, quality control equipment or other	No

application for which the radioactive source is insignificant and/or adequately shielded	
Production or trade in unbound asbestos. This does not apply to the purchase or use of cement linings with bound asbestos and an asbestos content of less than 20%.	No
Production, trade, storage, or transport of significant volumes of hazardous chemicals, or commercial scale usage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals include gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products.	No
Transboundary trade in wastes, except for those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations [11].	No
Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage [12].	No
Production and distribution, or investment in, media that are racist, antidemocratic or that advocate discrimination against a part of the population.	No
Projects involving the planting or introduction of invasive species	No
Projects that increase the dependency of primary participants and other stakeholders on fossil fuels.	No

Notes:

[1] Destruction means (1) the elimination or severe reduction in the integrity of a habitat/area caused by a major and long-term/prolonged change in land-use or water resources or (2) the modification of a habitat such that this habitat's ability to fulfil its function/ role is lost.

[2] The term critical habitat encompasses natural and modified habitats that deserve particular attention. This term includes (1) spaces with high biodiversity value as defined in the IUCN's classification criteria, including, in particular, habitats required for the survival of endangered species as defined by the IUCN's red list of threatened species or by any national legislation; (2) spaces with a particular importance for endemic species or whose geographical range is limited; (3) critical sites for the survival of migratory species; (4) spaces welcoming a significant number of individuals from congregatory species; (5) spaces presenting unique assemblages of species or containing species which are associated according to key evolution processes or which fulfil key ecosystem services; (6) and territories with socially, economically or culturally significant biodiversity for local communities. Primary forests or high conservation value forests must also be considered as critical habitats

[3] https://cites.org/eng/disc/text.php

[4] Sustainably managed forests are forests managed in a way that balances ecological, economic and socio-cultural needs.

[5] Forced labour means all work or service, not voluntarily performed, that is extracted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.

[6] Harmful child labour means the employment of children that is economically exploitive, or is likely to be hazardous to, or to interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Employees must be at least 14 years of age, as defined in the ILO's Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (C138 – Minimum Age Convention, Article 2), unless local laws require compulsory school attendance or a minimum working age. In such circumstances, the highest age requirement must be used.

[7] Any chemical component which reacts with, and destroys, the stratospheric ozone layer leading to the formation of holes in this layer. The Montreal Protocol lists Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), their reduction targets and deadlines for phasing them out

[8] Including substances included under the Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and WHO "Pharmaceuticals: Restrictions in Use and Availability".

[9] PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of highly toxic chemical products that may be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors and switchgear dating from 1950 to 1985.

[10] Any direct financing of these projects or activities involving them (for example, a hotel including a casino). Urban improvement plans which could subsequently incorporate such projects are not affected.

[11] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal (1989).

[12] "Critical cultural heritage" is considered as any heritage element recognised internationally or nationally as being of historical, social and/or cultural interest.

Annex 4 - Environmental and Social Screening

Topic	Risk Questions	Project Coordinator Response
Environmental and Social Risks		
Vulnerable Groups	Are there vulnerable or disadvantaged groups or individuals, including people with disabilities (consider also landless groups, lower income groups less able to cope with livelihood shocks/ stresses) in the project area, and are their livelihood conditions well understood by the project?	Yes, there are vulnerable groups in the project area who are less able to cope with livelihood shocks and the proposed project is designed to make them more resilient through improving their livelihoods and enabling them to manage their resources in a better manner.
	Is there a risk that project activities disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, due to their vulnerability status?	No, because the project by design includes poorest of the poor families and bring them into the fold of community institutions who are ultimately the drivers of the project.
	Is there a risk that the project discriminates against vulnerable groups, for example regarding access to project services or benefits and decision-making?	
Gender equality	Is there a risk of adverse gender impacts due to the project/ project activities, including for example discrimination or creation/exacerbation or perpetuation of gender-related inequalities?	No, the project seeks to reduce gender-related inequalities through empowering them socially, politically and economically.
	Is there a risk that project activities will result in adverse impacts on the situation of women or girls, including their rights and livelihoods? Consider for example where access restrictions disproportionately affect women and	There would be no adverse impacts on the situation of women and girls including their rights and livelihoods, rather the project would positively impact their livelihoods including their resources.

	girls due to their roles and positions in accessing environmental goods and services?	
	Is there a risk that project activities could cause or contribute to gender-based violence, including risks of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment (SEAH)? Consider partner and collaborating partner organizations and policies they have in place. Please describe.	The partner and collaborating partner have policies and systems in place to deal with cases of sexual harassment or abuse. There is a Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy (PSEA) and also Ethics Committee in the organization and all the staff members have been oriented on these.
Human Rights	Is there a risk that the project prevents peoples from fulfilling their economic or social rights, such as the right to life, the right to self-determination, cultural survival, health, work, water and adequate standard of living?	The project does not prevent people from fulfilling their economic and social right, rather it works towards improving their livelihoods and in turn their health, standard of living etc. By including them in community institutions and enhancing their capacities, they will be empowered and enabled to exercise their social rights.
	Is there a risk that the project prevents peoples from enjoying their procedural rights, for example through exclusion of individuals or groups from participating in decisions affecting them?	Since the project focuses on involving community in the planning process and all other aspects of implementation, there is no risk of exclusion of individuals or communities in decisions affecting them.
	Are you aware of any severe human rights violations linked to project partners in the last 5 years?	No, there has been no human rights violations linked to project partners in the last 5 years.
Community, Health, Safety & Security	Is there a risk of exacerbating existing social and stakeholder conflicts through the implementation of project activities? Consider for example existing conflicts over land or natural resources, between communities and the state.	The project by design would involve all stakeholders including the community, various departments of the government, Panchayati Raj Institutions in different phases of implementation including the planning process and hence possibility of any conflict is ruled out. Moreover, the implementation will be done in the private lands of the participating households that also rules out possibility of any conflict over land and natural resources.
	Does the project provide support (technical, material, financial) to law enforcement activities? Consider support to government agencies and to Community Rangers or members conducting monitoring and patrolling. If so, is there a risk that these activities will harm communities or personnel involved in monitoring and patrolling?	The community resource persons (CRPs) who will be promoted at the community level to monitor and provide handhold support to the beneficiaries of the project will be provided technical know how and also remuneration for their services from the project and it will in no way harm the communities or the CRPs in any way. There would be layers of

		monitoring at the community as well as at the implementing organization level for smooth implementation of the program.
	Are there any other activities that could adversely affect community health and safety? Consider for example exacerbating human-wildlife conflict, affecting provisioning ecosystem services, and transmission of diseases.	There is no possibility of human-wildlife conflict or transmission of diseases to the community during the course of implementation of the program.
Labour and working conditions	Is there a risk that the project, including project partners, would lead to working conditions for project workers[67] that are not aligned with national labour laws or the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (discriminatory working conditions, lack of equal opportunity, lack of clear employment terms, failure to prevent harassment or exploitation, failure to ensure freedom of association etc.)?	The project is aligned with the payment terms to men and women as per the government norms and hence there are clear employment terms in the design of the project itself.
	Is there an occupational health and safety risk to project workers while completing project activities?	No, there would not be any occupational health and safety risk to the project workers while completing the project activities as everything being done will be natural and in their own lands and vicinity.
	Is there a risk that the project support or be linked to forced labour, harmful child labour, or any other damaging forms of labour?	No, the project does not involve child labour or any other damaging forms of labour.
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions	Is there a risk that project activities might lead to releasing pollutants to the environment, cause significant amounts of waste or hazardous waste or materials?	There will be no hazardous waste or materials or pollutants in the project, rather it is designed to reduce the emission of GHGs.
	Is there a risk that the project will lead to significant consumption of energy, water or other resources, or lead to significant increases of greenhouse gases?	

[6] *Roy, Pankaj & Sarkar, Rintu. (2015). Work Participation and Income Generation from Sericulture: A Case Study of Alomtola Village of Kaliachak-II Block in Malda District, West Bengal. Social and Economic Geography. I. 31-36. 10.12691/seg-1-1-5.*

[7] Project workers include project coordinator staff, staff of other project partners, third party groups fulfilling core functions of the project, and community volunteers or contracted workers.

Access restrictions and livelihoods	Will the project include activities that could restrict peoples' access to land or natural resources where they have recognised rights (customary, and legal). Consider projects that introduce new access restrictions (eg. creation of a community forest), reinforce existing access restrictions (eg. improve management effectiveness and patrolling of a community forest) , or alter the way that land and natural resource access restrictions are decided (eg. through introducing formal management such as co-management).	There are no activities in the project that could restrict people's access to land or natural resources. In fact, the alternative livelihoods options that the project would provide to the participating households would reduce their dependency on forest and in turn help in rejuvenating the resource.
	Is there a risk that the access restrictions introduced /reinforced/altered by the project will negatively affect peoples' livelihoods?	
	Have strategies to avoid, minimise and compensate for these negative impacts been identified and planned?	
Cultural heritage	Is the Project Area officially designated or proposed as a cultural site, including international and national designations?	Not Applicable
	Does the project site potentially include important physical cultural resources, including burial sites and monuments, or natural features or resources of cultural significance (eg. sacred sites and species, ceremonial areas) and is there risk that the project will negatively impact this cultural heritage?	
	Is there a risk that the project will negatively impact intangible cultural heritage? Consider for example cultural practices, social and cultural norms in relation to land and natural resources.	
Indigenous Peoples	Are there Indigenous Peoples[8] living within the Project Area, using the land or natural resources within the project area, or with claims to land or territory within the Project Area?	The project would work with tribals including Santhals, Orao and Munda to improve their livelihoods and also create productive assets for them to provide them with sustainable

[8] As per the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System, Indigenous Peoples include: "(i) peoples who identify themselves as "indigenous" in strict sense; (ii) tribal peoples whose social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish themfrom other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations; and (iii) traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the nationalcommunity, whosestatus is regulated wholly or partially bytheir own customs or traditions, and whose livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems and their goods and services" (IUCN 2016).

	Is there a risk that the project negatively affects Indigenous Peoples through economic displacement, negatively affects their rights (including right to FPIC), their self-determination, or any other social or cultural impacts?	livelihood opportunities. They will be involved in all phases of implementation right from the planning process. However, there are no PVTGs in the project area.
	Is there a risk that there is inadequate consultation of Indigenous Peoples, and/or that the project does not seek the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples, for example leading to lack of benefits or inappropriate activities?	
Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	Is there a risk that project activities will cause adverse impacts on biodiversity (both in areas of high biodiversity value, and outside of these areas) or the functioning of ecosystems? Consider issues such as use of pesticides, construction, fencing, disturbance etc.	The project involves the use of native species like Mango, Asan, Arjun, Gamar and Neem. The fence is natural fence with Neem and Gamar. The intercropping that will be done in the uplands would use organic compost. The soil and water conservation methods that will be adopted in the uplands would help in sustainable use of natural resources and would also help in improving the quality of medium and lowlands.
	Is there a risk that the project will introduce non-native species or invasive species?	
	Is there a risk that the project will lead to the unsustainable use of natural resources? Consider for example projects promoting value chains and natural resource-based livelihoods.	
Land tenure and conflicts	Has the land tenure and use rights in the project area been assessed and understood?	The project activities will be taken up in private lands of people and hence there would not be any land tenure or use right conflicts.
	Is there a risk that project activities will exacerbate any existing land tenure conflicts, or lead to land tenure or use right conflicts?	
Risk of not accounting for climate change	Have trends in climate variability in the project areas been assessed and understood?	Since the communities involved in the project depend on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, horticulture, erratic rainfall and occasional drought might influence the effectiveness of project activities.
	Has the climate vulnerability of communities and particular social groups been assessed and understood?	
	Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might influence the effectiveness of project activities (eg. undermine project-supported livelihood activities) or increase community exposure to climate variation and hazards? Consider	

	floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, etc.	
Other – eg. cumulative impacts	Is there a risk that the project will contribute cumulatively to existing environmental or social risks or impacts, for example through introducing new access restrictions in a landscape with existing restrictions and limited land availability?	This has been covered above.
	Are there any other environmental and social risks worthy of note that are not covered by the topics and questions above?	
Safeguard Provisions		
Stakeholder engagement	Has a stakeholder analysis been conducted that has identified all stakeholders that could influence or be affected by the project, or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	Stakeholder analysis has been done and the roles and responsibilities have been chalked out for each of the stakeholder groups in the project (Refer Table 2.1).
	Are the local community and indigenous peoples statutory or customary rights to land or resources within the project area already clear and documented, or is further assessment required? Please describe.	Yes, the rights of people over their land have been assessed. Most of the land are private lands and a few are on lease for minimum 30 years.
	Are local governance structures and decision-making processes described and understood (including details of the involvement of women and marginalized or vulnerable groups), or is further assessment required? Please describe.	The project clearly defines the role of community, their institutions and also the local governance structures in the planning process and also implementation and monitoring of the project.
	Are past or ongoing disputes over land or resources in the project area known and documented, or is there need for further assessment? Please describe.	There are no disputes over land and resources in the project area as of now.
Stakeholder consultation	Does the project have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan with clear measures to engage Vulnerable Groups, or is this plan still to be developed? Please describe.	The stakeholder engagement plan is clearly documented and is part of the project.
	Has the Project Coordinator informed all stakeholders of the project, through providing relevant project information in an accessible format, or does this still need to be completed? Please describe.	Yes, the Project Coordinator has informed all stakeholders about the project through one to one meetings and will be again taken up in a more structured manner once the project gets initiated.
Free, Prior and Informed Consent	Has the project analysed and understood national and international requirements for Free Prior and	Yes the project has a good knowledge of the national and international requirement for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). This has

	Informed Consent (FPIC)? Please describe.	always been the practice with PRASARI to ensure that the community has knowledge and gives consent to any interventions. There are trainings and capacity buildings planned around this process to ensure that community has full prior knowledge and understanding of the process.
	Has the project identified potential FPIC rightsholders and potential representatives in local communities and among indigenous peoples, or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	The project has identified the potential rightsholders and potential representatives in local communities. Since the project is spread over two neighbouring districts and each village under the project is spread out, the team will be holding discussions and trainings. Once the process is complete in all of the project area, there will be a common signed agreement between PRASARI and the potential community leaders.
	Has the project worked with rightsholders and representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples to understand the local decision-making process and timeline (ensuring involvement of women and vulnerable groups), or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	PRSARI has been working with the communities in the region since its establishment in 2007 . It's work has centred mostly with the tribal and marginalised rural families towards ensuring their secured and sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing. PRASARI has been working with over 60,000 rural families across variety of agro-climatic regions in West Bengal, and Jharkhand. They have been partnering with many national and international agencies to achieve their vision.
	Has the project sought consent from communities to 'consider the proposed Project', and if so, where is this in principle consent documented? Please describe.	Since the project is planned in private land of communities, the in-principle consent of the people has been taken.
Grievance Mechanism	Does the project already have a Grievance Mechanism, or is this still to be established? Please describe.	The project has a Grievance Redressal Mechanism in place as part of the Coordinator Organization. Any lapses in the implementation brought to the notice of the Executive working at the ground level will be notified to the Team Leader and then to the Executive Director and Program Director based on the severity of the issue.
	For projects with a GRM, is this accessible to project affected people? Please describe.	

Annex 5 – Notification of Relevant Authorities

Rajarhat PRASARI
Email: prasarikolkata@gmail.com
Head Office: 662/2, Baishnabghata, 2nd Floor, Flat No. 2B, Patuli, Baghajatin, Kolkata – 700086

To,
BDO
Dubrajpur,
Birbhum, West Bengal

Date-19-08-2022

Subject: Request for support and acknowledgement for the project restoration of barren uplands to address climate change in the Dubrajpur block of Birbhum District in West Bengal.

Dear Sir,

Rajarhat Prasari is a not-for-profit organization, registered under West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. The organization was established in 2007 and led by professionals to work with and for the rural families towards their secured and sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing. PRASARI has been

Working with over 60000 rural families across variety of agro-climatic regions in West Bengal, India, through its field-based teams of Professionals

We are developing a project in the Dubrajpur block that aims at restoring barren uplands of the

vulnerable communities. The project is spread over few blocks in Birbhum and Jharkhand. The goal is to restore the barren and degraded uplands through soil and water conservation activities and

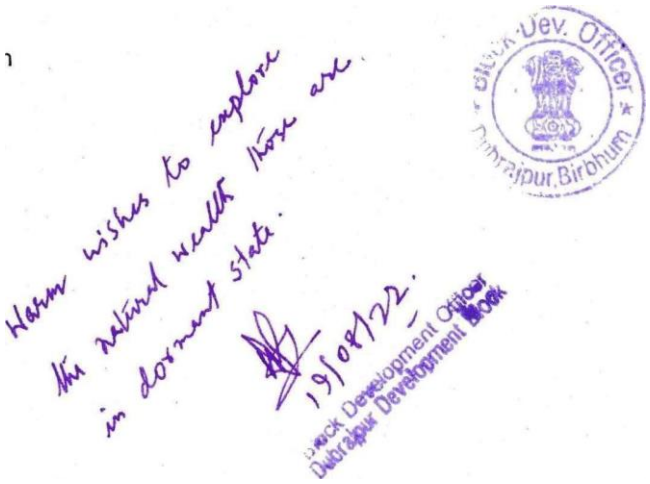
plantations. Prasari has worked with the communities in the region for 5 years.

The project also aims at reducing carbon emissions from the plantations as one of the components of the project.
The Prasari team has been working with the community specially the Women Community Institution in designing watershed maps and treatment plans of each village.

We would be very happy to share with you the activities and roadmap of the project. If you can let us know a date and time for the meeting, we will be happy to receive inputs from you.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation

Kind regards



Rajarhat PRASARI
Email: prasarikolkata@gmail.com
Head Office: 662/2, Baishnabghata, 2nd Floor, Flat No. 2B, Patuli, Baghajatin, Kolkata – 700086

To,
The Sabhapati
Rajnagar Panchayet Samiti
Birbhum, West Bengal

Date - 20-08-2022

Subject: Request for support and acknowledgement for the project restoration of barren uplands to address climate change in the Rajnagar block of Birbhum District in West Bengal.

Dear Sir,

Rajarhat Prasari is a not-for-profit organization, registered under West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. The organization was established in 2007 and led by professionals to work with and for the rural families towards their secured and sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing. PRASARI has been working with over 60000 rural families across variety of agro-climatic regions in West Bengal, India, through its field-based teams of Professionals

We are developing a project in the Rajnagar block that aims at restoring barren uplands of the vulnerable communities. The project is spread over few blocks in Birbhum and Jharkhand. The goal is to restore the barren and degraded uplands through soil and water conservation activities and plantations. Prasari has worked with the communities in the region for 5 years.

The project also aims at reducing carbon emissions from the plantations as one of the components of the project.
The Prasari team has been working with the community specially the Women Community Institution in designing watershed maps and treatment plans of each village.
We would be very happy to share with you the activities and roadmap of the project. If you can let us know a date and time for the meeting, we will be happy to receive inputs from you.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation

Kind regards

RAJARHAT PRASARI BIRBHUM

20/8/22
Sabhapati
Rajnagar Panchayet Samiti