



Government of Odisha



OFSDP-II ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase-II

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society

Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha





OFSDP-II

Annual Report

2025-26



Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project - II

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department,
Government of Odisha

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Ketaki Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
Unit-Third Eye Communications
Bhubaneswar
info@thirdeyeco.in
www.thirdeyeco.in

FOREWORD



The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase II (OFSDP-II) is the earnest pursuit of Government of Odisha to promote the participatory and sustainable forest management in forest fringe villages in continuation to its own successfully implemented Phase-I of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP-I) during 2006-16. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which provided the loan assistance to OFSDP-I, also extended its financial support to Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) for the implementation of OFSDP-II in 12 Territorial Forest Divisions across 10 Revenue Districts and 2 Wildlife Divisions, namely Bamra and Rajnagar, encompassing 50 Forest Ranges spanning over ten-year period from 2017-18 to 2026-27. The project is being implemented in Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode at the grassroots level through 1,211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) in Territorial Divisions and 10 Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) in Bamra Wildlife Division. The project primarily aims to promote the sustainable management and conservation of forest resources while enhancing the long-term livelihood security of economically marginalized households in forest fringe villages.

The year 2025-26 marked another important phase in the implementation journey of OFSDP-II as the project moves towards consolidation of achievements and sustainability of interventions. During the year, emphasis continued to be placed on strengthening participatory forest management, biodiversity conservation, community institution building, and livelihood enhancement activities across project areas. The project maintained its focus on innovative and community-driven approaches such as Community-based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV), gender mainstreaming, climate-resilient livelihood interventions, and cluster-based enterprise promotion through Multi-Product Clusters (MPCs).

OFSDP-II gives special attention in enhancing livelihood opportunities for the forest-dependent communities through promotion of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) involving Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and Poorest of the Poor (PoP) households. Particularly, OFSDP-II is redefining women-led development in odisha by providing opportunities to 4406+ Women SHGs to earn sustainable livelihoods and thereby strengthening rural economies. With ₹31.39 Crore disbursed as Revolving Fund support till March 2026, and a remarkable 72.74% repayment rate, the project has benefitted 38,147 females. The women led Self Help Groups (SHGs) are turning these opportunities into sustainable livelihood and becoming successful entrepreneurs with self-reliant future. Further, these groups are facilitated by the Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) in collaboration with the Marketing and Management Support Agency (MMSA) to carry out value addition, branding and marketing of the products through Multi Product Clusters (MPCs).

The project also continued to promote convergence with various line departments and developmental agencies for maximizing outreach and impact. Through inter-sectoral convergence programmes,

substantial support was mobilized for implementation of community development activities in the project villages. Such collaborative efforts have enabled the project to address the developmental needs of local communities in a more holistic and sustainable manner.

The Satoyama Initiative being implemented in the 10 EDCs of Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary under Bamra Wildlife Division continued to demonstrate an integrated landscape management approach combining biodiversity conservation with sustainable livelihoods under OFSDP-II. Through this initiative, the project commits itself to achieve the balance between the ecological sustainability and socio-economic development by fostering a harmonious relationship between local communities and natural ecosystems. During the year under report, through micro plan revision exercise, efforts were taken to strengthen the process of participatory planning and integrating livelihood and conservation practices into community micro plans in the ten EDCs of Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary under Satoyama Initiative. The long-term collaboration between OFSDP-II and the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai for ecosystem-based conservation and monitoring of the Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (BCA) has further strengthened the project's commitment towards scientific ecosystem management and ecological monitoring.

Capacity building remained a key focus area during the year. Continuous efforts were made to strengthen the capacities of project personnel, community institutions, SHGs, and local stakeholders through trainings, exposure visits, and field-level demonstrations. The technical collaboration with Kosher India for trading the carbon sequestered in the farm forestry areas of the project has made a significant progress during the year. The learning and experience in the field level implementation of project interventions acquired by both, the project personnel and the community leaders were consolidated and shared through the 'Sameekshya' meetings held at all 12 divisions during the year. The state level 'Sameekshya' meeting, organized by the project on 19th November 2025 at Bhubaneswar paved the way forward and provided valuable guidance to the project management to effectively carryover the phase-in and phase-out activities during the year ahead.

It is note-worthy to mention here that OFSDP-II in collaboration Odisha Sate Bamboo Mission and the State Medicinal Plant Board had organized a National level workshop on 20th November 2025 in which many MoUs were signed with research organizations, NGOs and commercial firms of different states for partnering in intensive and scientific pursuit towards achieving a breakthrough and significant progress in bamboo and herbal based enterprises in rural Odisha.

Yet another milestone event, very successfully organized by OFSDP-II was the '14th National Workshop of JICA Assisted Forestry Projects in India" spanning three days from 11to 13 February 2026. The major theme of the workshop was 'Climate Resilience, Digital Transformation & Sustainable Wood Economies'. The workshop was attended by the representatives from JICA offices in Japan & India, Inspector General of Forests of Govt. of India, Heads of Forest Force as well as JICA projects of various states, academicians &



researchers, CEOs of forest-based industries. From Odisha state, senior forest officers, OFSDP-II personnel of all levels and VSS members took part in two days deliberations followed by the field visit on the third day. The workshop served as a national forum for knowledge exchange, learning, and collaboration among different forestry projects being implemented across the country with JICA support.

During the year 2025-26, the project has seen the transition at top management level. After Dr. Meeta Biswal who had a long association with the project and led the project as the PCCF & Project Director superannuated on 30th June 2025, Dr. K. Murugesan took over the position of PCCF & Project Director and led the project till he was elevated as the PCCF & HoFF of Odisha state on 31st January 2026. Then the mantle was passed on to me from 1st February 2026 onwards. Despite these quick administrative changes in the project management, the well-established legacy and process are being continued in project execution with the same intensity and high-level commitment of the entire project staff of all levels and community members.

The Annual Activity Report for the year 2025-26 highlights the participatory and inclusive approaches adopted by the project to ensure contributions from all sections of the community and equitable distribution of benefits among them. This report is expected to provide valuable insights into the strategies, innovations, and outcomes achieved under OFSDP-II during the year. On behalf of OFSDP-II, I sincerely thank all the key-stakeholders for their continued support and contributions in successful implementation of project interventions and further ensuring long-term sustainability of the gains achieved.



G. Rajesh, IFS
Additional PCCF & Project Director
OFSDP-II, Bhubaneswar



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) is being implemented by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) since 2017 with the funding support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Its participatory model of implementation of interventions related to sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, capacity building, livelihood enhancement, and convergence with line departments over the past nine years has been widely appreciated and being replicated by other JICA supported forestry projects in the country.

The immense contributions with collaborative spirit from the field staff, volunteers, and community members towards the success of OFSDP-II have been invaluable and ever remembered. At the same time, special mention is to be made about the supportive role played by the senior officers, partner agencies, and community leaders who have continuously encouraged and properly guided the project implementation at field level.

First of all, the project management likes to acknowledge the strategic guidance and constructive support provided by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Odisha and Chairperson of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) due to which the project activities could be carried out smoothly without any administrative hurdles. The valuable contribution in terms of providing policy direction and managerial guidance by the esteemed members of the High-Power Committee (HPC) have been very helpful in effective project planning, coordination and execution of project interventions at all levels.

The project expresses sincere appreciation to the Principal Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha, for consistently providing administrative guidance and always encouraging the innovative approaches adopted by the project.

Special appreciation is extended to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Odisha, for his steadfast support and guidance during the reporting year. His leadership facilitated active departmental involvement, smooth inter-sectoral coordination, and timely administrative support, all of which greatly contributed to the effective implementation of project activities.

Profound gratitude is expressed to the members of the community institutions, including VSSs, SHGs, CIGs, Producer Groups, Gram & Palli Sabhas and other community-based organizations in the project area. Without their active participation, the execution of key-project activities such as micro plan preparation, livelihood initiatives, sustainable forest management, community development programmes and so on would not have been so successful.

The project profusely acknowledges the contributions of the Animators and community leaders, particularly the VSS Presidents and executive members, for their active role in mobilizing community members and facilitating participatory planning and implementation of developmental activities at the grassroots level.

Sincere thanks are due to District Advisory Committees headed by the Collectors, Block level Advisory Committees and officials of various line departments for their continued cooperation and support in implementing various government community welfare and livelihood schemes through convergence Programme in the project villages.

The project also places on record its appreciation to collaborative partner agencies, including the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) and Kosher Climate India Pvt. Ltd., for providing scientific and technical support to the project in its unique pursuits like ecosystem-based conservation, long-term monitoring of Biodiversity Conservation Areas (BCAs), carbon estimation, and carbon trading initiatives in OFSDS project areas.

The valuable contributions of Marketing and Management Support Agency (MMSA) and the Social Enablers towards livelihood enhancement, market linkages to community owned products and in strengthening the operations of Multi-Product Clusters are recognized and well appreciated.

The Project Management Consultants (PMC) deserve special acknowledgement for their strong professional support to PMU throughout the project period in implementing all components, including forest management, institutional development, capacity building, Satoyama initiative, livelihood promotion, organizing various events like Samiksha, 14th JICA National conference etc, preparation of PCR, monitoring and documentation activities. Their expert guidance significantly strengthened the operational efficiency of the PMU and other management units of the project.

The project successfully developed and published 12 Divisional GIS Atlases covering all divisions. By creating high-resolution (1:5,000) Base, Forest Cover Density and Treatment Maps for all VSS areas, the project established a comprehensive spatial repository. These atlases became vital tools for scientific planning, monitoring and evidence-based decisions, while leaving a permanent record of forest cover and interventions.

OFSDP-II prioritized documentation by producing ten thematic audio-visual documentaries to capture its success stories and outcomes. Notably, the flagship documentary—premiered by the Hon'ble Minister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha, at the 14th National Workshop of JICA Assisted Forestry Projects—earned widespread praise from national delegates and forestry experts.

Because of the sincere and committed efforts of all the staff in project management units, including the state level Project Management Unit (PMU), Divisional Management Units (DMUs), Field Management Units (FMUs), and Partner NGOs (P-NGOs), the project interventions are smoothly executed at the field level. Their contributions are well recognized and duly acknowledged. Special mention to be made regarding the efforts taken by the project team at DMU and PMU levels in organizing the series of OFSDP-II Annual review meetings, commonly known as 'Sameekshya', at all DMU as well as at state levels. In this regard, the leadership role of all the DMU Chiefs, Assistant DMU Chiefs and FMU Chiefs has been commendable.

The project could effectively achieve the set targets in stipulated time frame due to the efficient supervision and sound technical guidance provided by the senior officers of the Project Management Unit (PMU), including the Joint Project Directors (JPDs) and Deputy Project Director (DPD) who deserve special thanks. Also, the contributions of the State Project Managers (SPMs) in terms of their constant technical advice and support to the teams at DMU, FMU, and VSS levels, ensuring effective implementation of project activities across all divisions are highly praiseworthy.

The project management is grateful to former Project Directors Dr. Meeta Biswal, IFS (Rtd) and Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS who have efficiently steered the project till near past. Their dynamism in providing leadership to the project has left a lasting footprint in administering the project activities and inspiring to the incumbent project leaders.

Above all, the consultative style and high-level professionalism shown by the current Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Project Director in his leadership have been instrumental to adopt the mission-mode approach in project implementation by the project teams at all levels. Due to his untiring efforts, the timely implementation of project interventions is being ensured with inclusive outreach to the poorest forest fringe communities. As the result, OFSDP-II is getting continuous recognition as one of the flagship community-based initiatives of Government of Odisha.

The Annual Progress Report of OFSDP-II for the year 2025–26 stands as a reflection of the collective commitment, cooperation, and commendable efforts of all stakeholders who contributed to the successful implementation of the project during the reporting period.

Rinku Kumari, IFS
Joint Project Director, OFSDS



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1.1 Introduction

Over the past few decades, rapid and often indiscriminate developmental activities in Odisha have led to large-scale deforestation and significant depletion of forest resources. One of the major contributing factors is the extensive and uncontrolled exploitation of forests by communities living in and around forest areas, many of whom are below the poverty line (BPL). With very limited livelihood alternatives, these forest-dependent communities are often compelled to rely heavily on forest resources for their daily sustenance and income, which in turn places severe biotic pressure on the ecosystem and fosters unsustainable use of resources. In addition to community-driven pressures, other critical factors exacerbating forest degradation include frequent forest fires, both accidental and deliberate, illegal logging and smuggling of timber by organized mafias, inadequate participation of forest fringe dwellers in forest protection and management efforts and so on. These issues collectively undermine conservation efforts and pose significant challenges to the sustainable management of forest resources in the state.

In response to the growing challenges of forest degradation and in alignment with the objectives outlined in the Forestry Vision 2020, the Government of Odisha launched the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II). Building on the achievements and lessons learned from Phase-I (OFSDP-I), the second phase aims to promote sustainable forest management and community development through active community participation, in accordance with Joint Forest Management (JFM) guidelines. OFSDP-II is a flagship initiative implemented by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) under the aegis of the Department of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change, Government of Odisha. The project is being supported through loan assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project covers the period from 2017-18 to 2026-27 and is currently being implemented across 1,211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) in 50 forest ranges, spread over 12 Territorial Forest Divisions and two Wildlife Divisions in the state. OFSDP-II represents a significant step toward integrating forest conservation with livelihood enhancement, ensuring the sustainable use and protection of forest resources in Odisha through inclusive, community-led approaches.

1.1.1 The focal areas of the project are

- i. **Sustainable Forest Management:** OFSDP-II seeks to curb deforestation and forest resource depletion, which have been exacerbated by indiscriminate developmental activities and the extensive use of forest resources by dependent communities. The project emphasizes sustainable practices and aims to reduce biotic pressure on forests.
- ii. **Community Development:** Many forest fringe dwellers in Odisha live below the poverty line and rely heavily on forests for fuel wood and livelihood. OFSDP-II aims to provide alternative livelihood options to reduce this dependency. The project promotes active community participation in forest protection and management, aligning with Joint Forest Management guidelines.

OFSDP-II is being implemented across 1211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) in 50 ranges within 12 territorial forest divisions and 2 wildlife divisions. The project tenure is ten years from 2017-18 to 2026-27. In fact,

OFSDP-II represents a comprehensive effort to address the dual challenges of forest conservation and community livelihood in Odisha. By leveraging the successes and lessons of OFSDP-I and integrating sustainable practices, the project aims to create a balanced approach to forest management and community development.

1.2 Objectives

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase II aims at enhancing forest ecosystem along with sustainable livelihood of local people by improving sustainable forest management, sustainable biodiversity conservation and simultaneous community development, thereby contributing to harmonization between environmental conservation and socio-economic development in the project area in the State. The major themes of the project are:

- Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through community participation
- Livelihood promotion through Inter-sectoral convergence
- Experiments in Biodiversity Conservation & management, which include
 - Satoyama Initiatives in Badarama Wildlife Sanctuary &
 - Scientific Monitoring of Bhattarkanika Conservation Area in Mangrove Wildlife Division, Rajnagar.

OFSDP-II is being implemented following Joint Forest Management Mode, wherein, communities are facilitated by the project to initiate planning and execution of interventions with the assistance of project personnel. Funds for the implementation of the planned work is largely managed through the community institutions, namely- Vana Surakshya Samiti (VSS).

In order to achieve the overall goal, the basic approaches followed are:

- Protection and management of forest by active participation of community through Joint Forest Management.
- Forest Restoration component like plantation of indigenous forest species in the degraded forest land assigned to the VSSs, soil and moisture conservation measures and forest fire control and management.
- Augmenting alternate livelihood options for the forest fringe dwellers for the reduction of dependence and biotic pressure on forest.
- Conducting experiments on conservation and scientific management of the biodiversity in protected areas.
- Comprehensive community development through inter-sectoral convergence.
- Promotion of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) by the Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs) and Poorest of Poor (PoP) with the additional assistance of Revolving Fund (RF) at VSS level.
- Strengthening the backward and forward market linkages through establishing & operationalizing the multi-product clusters under the project.
- Sustainable forest management and people's empowerment in decision making through enhanced capacity of community members.



1.3 Project Design

OFSDP-II has been formulated to be implemented in ten years commencing from 2017-18 to 2026-27 and the implementation modality has been divided in to three phases, as below:

- Preparatory Phase (First Year of the Project- 2017-18)
- Implementation Phase (2nd to 8th year of the Project- 2018-19 to 2024-25)
- Consolidation / Phase Out Phase (Last two years of the project- 2025-26 and 2026- 27)

1.3.1 Preparatory Phase

The first year of the project, designated as the Preparatory Phase, involved several foundational activities to ensure effective implementation and management. The key activities undertaken during this phase include:

- Establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) at the state level.
- Creation of Divisional Management Units (DMUs) at the Forest Division level.
- Formation of Field Management Units (FMUs) at the Forest Range level.
- Hiring and deployment of necessary contractual staff across PMU, DMU, and FMU levels.
- Engagement of Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (P-NGOs).
- Procurement of a Project Management Consultant (PMC) at the PMU level.
- Preparation of various operational guidelines including Operation Manual, VSS (Vana Suraksha Samiti) Management Manual and Other essential guidelines for project execution.
- Formulation of a Training Needs Assessment (TNA).
- Preparation of guidelines for the development of Micro Plan documents at the VSS level.
- Selection and mobilization of VSS.
- Orientation for officials and staff of OFSDP-II (Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II).

These activities collectively laid a robust foundation for the project's subsequent phases, ensuring that the necessary structures, personnel, and guidelines were in place to facilitate smooth and effective project execution.

1.3.2 Implementation Phase

Implementation of the project activities in 1211 VSSs/EDCs were planned to be taken up in four batches by covering 300 VSSs in Batch-I, 400 VSSs in Batch-II, 350 VSSs in Batch-III & 150 VSSs in Batch-IV. In addition, the project is also implemented with the objective of sustainable biodiversity conservation in 10 EDCs of Badarama Wildlife Sanctuary in Bamra Wildlife Division. The P-NGO Teams were deployed in each FMU to ensure and assist VSSs to take up project activities in respective batches. Engagement of Animators at VSS level has been provisioned to facilitate the Executive Committee of the VSS and the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for implementation of project activities.:

The implementation phase of the project involves a structured plan to cover 1211 VSSs and EDCs (Eco-Development Committees) in multiple batches, along with specific objectives for sustainable biodiversity

conservation in selected wildlife sanctuaries. The plan and interventions for this phase include phased deployment of VSSs/EDCs as given below:

- Batch-1: 300 VSSs
- Batch-2: 400 VSSs
- Batch-3: 350 VSSs
- Batch-4: 150 VSSs

The project aims for sustainable biodiversity conservation in 10 EDCs within the Badarama Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Bamra Wildlife Division. The deployment of support staff includes

- P-NGO Teams: Partner-NGO teams are deployed in each FMU to ensure and assist VSSs in their respective batches.
- Animators: Engagement of Animators at the VSS level is provisioned to facilitate the Executive Committees of the VSS and the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for effective implementation of project activities.

The broad categories of project interventions included

- Community Mobilization and Capacity Building: Training and capacity-building activities for VSS members, SHGs, and community stakeholders to enhance their participation and skills.
- Forest Management Activities: Initiatives such as afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable forest management practices.
- Biodiversity Conservation Measures: Activities aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity within the project areas, particularly in the designated wildlife sanctuary.
- Livelihood Development Programs: Support for SHGs and community members to develop sustainable livelihood options that align with conservation goals.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation of project activities to ensure progress and adapt strategies as needed for better outcomes.

These structured interventions and phased implementation plans are designed to systematically address the project's goals, ensuring sustainable development and conservation efforts are effectively integrated and executed. The specific interventions scheduled under each broad category which are taken up in the Implementation phase included as detailed below.

i. Sustainable Forest Management:

In JFM Mode

- Silvicultural Operations including Plantation
- ANR without gap plantation
- ANR with gap plantation of 200 / 400 / 800 seedlings/ha
- Block plantation v.i.z Fuel and Fodder, NTFP and other Block plantations
- Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures,
- Drainage Line Treatment (DLT)
- Fire prevention and protection measures



In Non-JFM Mode

- Consolidation and demarcation of forest boundaries
- Construction and improvement of permanent nursery in the form of Hi-Tech Nursery
- Soil and Moisture Conservation Measures
- Non-JFM Drainage Line Treatment
- Farm Forestry

ii. Experiments in Sustainable Biodiversity Management

- Formulation of scientific Health Report Card for concurrent monitoring of conservation and management parameters of Bhitakanika Conservation Area (BCA).
- Implementation of Satoyama Initiative model in Badarma Wildlife Sanctuary under Bamra Wildlife Division for Sustainable Biodiversity Management.

iii. Livelihood Initiatives

- Comprehensive community development through inter-sectoral convergence with the schemes and programme of line Departments
- Coordination with line Departments for convergence through District Advisory Committee (DAC) at District level and Block Level Advisory Committee (BLAC) at Block level.
- Augmenting alternate livelihood options through Vana Surakshya Samitees (VSS)/ Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Common Interest Groups (CIGs)/ Poorest of Poor (PoPs).
- Establishment of Product Clusters for promotion of income generating activities in the project area.
- Establishing Livelihood Resource Cell (LRC) at PMU level to facilitate promotion of cluster based income generating activities.

iv. Capacity Building:

- Capacity building trainings and orientations for all stakeholders
- Consultation and seminars
- Exposure visits

v. Knowledge Management and Documentation:

- Documentation of lessons learnt during implementation of project.
- Publication of success stories, newsletters, theme-based documentary films, quarterly reports, annual reports etc.
- Publication of training materials and guidelines.

vi. Cross-cutting Issues

- Gender Mainstreaming (GM)
- Community Based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV)
- Environmental and Social Monitoring Framework (ESMSF)



vii. Monitoring and Evaluation System in OFSDP-II

The key elements of Monitoring and Evaluation System of OFSDP-II are mainly grouped into

- a) Monitoring,
- b) Impact Assessment and
- c) Audit.

The elements of the M&E arrangement are as follows:

a) Monitoring:

- Concurrent monitoring and periodic Reviews,
- Inter-sectoral coordination meetings for convergence,
- Community self-monitoring
- Computerized MIS & GIS,
- Computerized Accounting System,
- Technology based monitoring-GIS and MIS applications, and
- Annual strategy planning and review workshops.

b) Impact Assessment:

- Annual outcome assessments,
- Baseline and impact surveys, and
- Thematic and short studies.

c) Audits:

- Social audits,
- Statutory financial audits,
- Concurrent audits,
- Grievance redressal, RTI and public disclosure,
- Operation and effect indicators

1.3.3 Consolidation / Phase-Out phase:

The consolidation phase is the Phase-out period of OFSDP-II which has been initiated during the 9th year of the project i.e. during 2025-26. All interventions are nearly in completion stage by 2025-26. Phase-out is the time for consolidation of project achievements and to start the process to handover the project to the actual owners (Forest Department / Community Institutions). It is also mandated to review the capacity of the VSSs and SHGs and ensure sustainability of such institutions by way of linking them with appropriate institutions / support organizations for continued operations. The interventions proposed during the consolidation phase include:



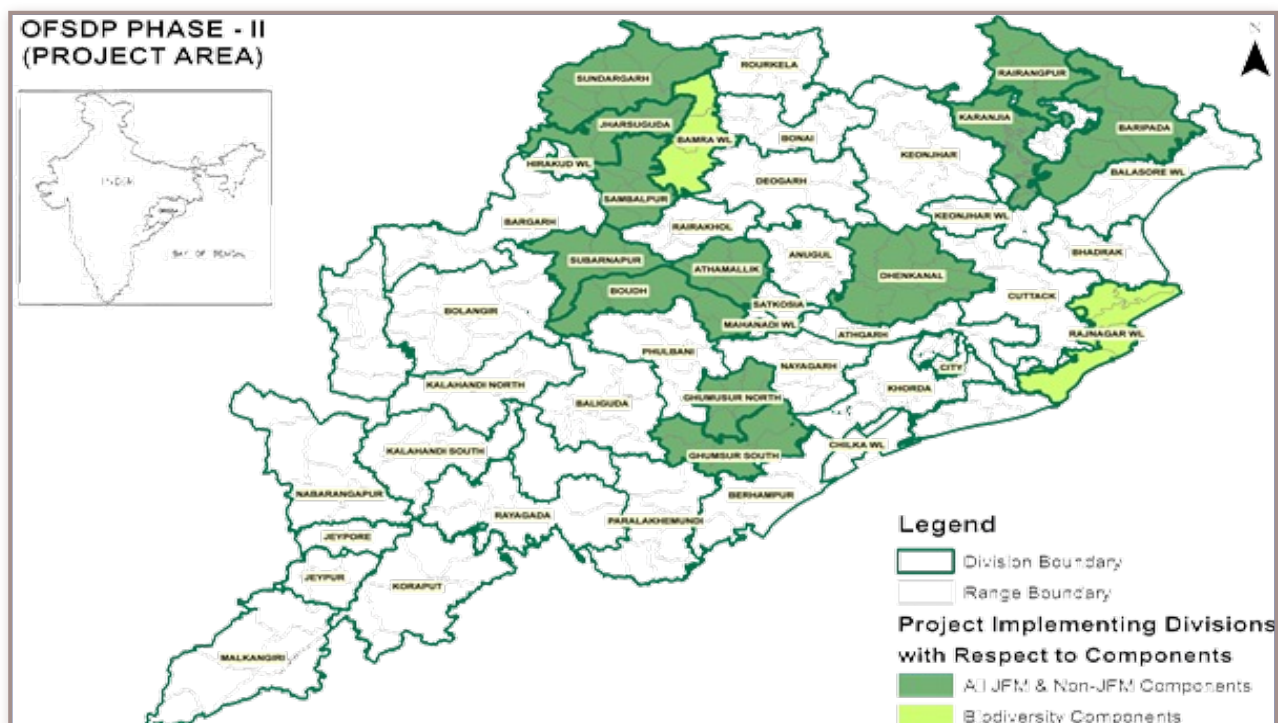
- Asset inventory
- Revisiting of Micro Plans
- Phase-out trainings
- Strengthening the clusters/ federations of VSS at FMU level
- Linkage with the Livelihood Resource Centre
- End term evaluation
- Dissemination of knowledge / lessons learnt and its management etc.

1.4 Project Area

The project was planned to be implemented in 1200 VSSs from 50 Forest Ranges in 12 Territorial Forest Divisions and 10 numbers of EDCs in Badarma Wildlife Sanctuary of Bamra Wildlife Divisions and Experiment in Mangrove Wildlife Division, Rajnagar falling under 10 numbers of administrative Districts and 7 numbers of Forest Circles in the state of Odisha. The VSSs coverage under the project is given below:

Circle	District	Division	No of FMUs	No of VSSs
Angul	Angul	Athamallik	3	75
	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	6	150
Baripada	Mayurbhanj	Baripada	6	135
		Rairangpur	5	107
		Karanjia	4	80
Berhampur	Boudh	Boudh	3	71
	Ganjam	Ghumsur (N)	4	100
		Ghumsur (S)	3	65
Bhawanipatna	Sonepur	Subarnapur	3	84
Rourkela	Sundergarh	Sundergarh	5	156
Sambalpur	Jharsuguda	Jharsuguda	3	88
	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	4	100
		Bamra (WL)	0	10 EDCs
Bhubaneswar	Kendrapada	Rajnagar Mangrove (WL)	0	
7 Circles	10 Districts	12 Divisions	49 FMUs	1211 VSSs +10 EDCs

Note: Kendumundi and Thakurmunda FMUs of Karanjia Forest Division have been merged to form Thakurmunda FMU. Thus at present the number of FMUs in the Project area is 49.



1.5 Institutional Arrangements

1.5.1 Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS)

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSD-II) is being implemented by Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS), which is an autonomous registered Society under the administrative control of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha. The office bearers of the Society are as below:

- President is the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha
- Vice President is the Additional Chief Secretary Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha
- Chief Executive Officer is the PCCF (Projects) and Project Director, OFSDS

1.5.2 High Power Committee

The High- Power Committee (HPC) is the highest decision- making body for the OFSDP-II at State Government level. HPC is responsible for the following

- Approval of the Operation Manual (including Financial Rules / Procedures) for the Project.
- Approval of Budget and Annual Plan of Operation of the Project.
- Review the project performance every six months and framing of operational procedures for the project for smooth and effective implementation.

The Committee meets at least once in every six months or more frequently as per necessity. The HPC also facilitates coordination amongst various line Departments of the state and other agencies to achieve the project goals.



1.5.3 Governing Body

The Governing Body (GB) of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) serves as the highest decision-making authority for the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) under the Society Registration Act of 1860. Chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Government of Odisha, the GB is tasked with several critical responsibilities:

- The GB grants authority to the Project Management Unit (PMU) for day-to-day operations, ensuring smooth and efficient project management.
- It supports the PMU by approving the Budget and Annual Plan of Operation (APO) along with other necessary proposals throughout the year.
- The GB rigorously reviews project progress against the annual plans at least quarterly. This includes both financial and physical progress monitoring to ensure the project stays on track.
- It provides strategic guidance to the PMU in preparing the Operational Manual, ensuring that the project activities are well-documented and standardized.
- The GB prepares proposals for the High-Powered Committee (HPC) when necessary, facilitating the smooth implementation of project activities.

These responsibilities underscore the GB's pivotal role in ensuring that OFSDP-II meets its objectives effectively and efficiently.

1.5.4 Project Management Unit

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) is established at the State level with the primary responsibility of managing, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring the project's activities. The major mandate of PMU is to execute the proposed project activities in accordance with the project implementation schedule, Annual Plan of Operations (APO), and prescribed processes.

Key aspects of the Project Management Unit (PMU)'s structure and functions include:

The PMU is led by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Projects) & Project Director of OFSDS. The Project Director provides strategic direction and oversight for the project's execution.

The Project Director is supported by a dedicated team of officers to ensure the smooth implementation of the project interventions. The support team includes:

- Additional Project Director / Joint Project Director: Assists in high-level project management and coordination.
- Deputy Project Directors (DPDs): Responsible for specific aspects of the project, ensuring detailed attention and management.
- State Project Managers: Facilitate various project interventions, ensuring that activities are carried out as planned.

These responsibilities underscore the GB's pivotal role in ensuring that OFSDP-II meets its objectives effectively and efficiently.

The PMU is mandated to implement the project's activities, adhering strictly to the detailed project implementation schedule and the Annual Plan of Operations. This ensures that all processes and

activities are in line with the project's objectives and timelines. The PMU coordinates with various stakeholders and monitors the progress of project activities to ensure alignment with the project's goals. This involves regular reporting, assessment, and adjustment of strategies as needed to maintain the project's momentum and effectiveness. The PMU's structured and focused approach is critical for the successful implementation and monitoring of OFSDP-II, ensuring that the project achieves its intended outcomes efficiently and effectively.

1.5.5 Regional CCF Offices (RCCFs)

Circle Offices of the Forest Department having the jurisdiction of the Project Divisions, supervise the project interventions and co-ordinate between the project and regular Departmental activities. The RCCFs also review the project works vis-à-vis financial and physical progress of the Divisions under their jurisdiction.

1.5.6 Project Management Consultants (PMC)

In the design and institutional arrangements of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a team of Project Management Consultants (PMC) has been deployed at the state level. The role of the PMC is crucial for the effective management and implementation of the project. The PMC team works closely with the Project Management Unit (PMU) to assist in managing the project. This collaboration ensures that the PMU receives the necessary support to handle the complex aspects of project management effectively. The PMC provides essential technical guidance for various project interventions. Their expertise helps in planning, executing, and monitoring the technical aspects of the project activities, ensuring that they are carried out efficiently and according to best practices.

Throughout the implementation years, the PMC supports the PMU by offering specialized knowledge and skills that may not be available within the PMU. This includes assistance in areas such as project planning, resource management, capacity building, and performance evaluation. By extending their technical expertise and management support, the PMC plays a significant role in enhancing the overall outcomes of the project. Their involvement helps in overcoming technical challenges, optimizing resource utilization, and ensuring that the project objectives are met in a timely and effective manner. The deployment of the PMC as part of the project design and institutional arrangements ensures that OFSDP-II benefits from professional management and technical expertise, which is vital for the successful implementation and sustainability of the project activities.

1.5.7 Divisional Management Unit

As part of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a structured approach has been adopted for implementing project interventions at the field level. This approach includes the creation of 14 Divisional Management Units (DMUs) within the existing Forest Territorial and Wildlife Divisions. Each DMU is designed to facilitate effective project implementation through localized management and coordination. Here are the key components of the DMU structure and their roles:

Each DMU is headed by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the concerned division, who is designated as the DMU Chief. The DMU Chief is responsible for overseeing all project activities within their respective DMU, ensuring that interventions are carried out efficiently and effectively.

The DMU Chief is assisted by a team of professionals to support the diverse needs of the project. This team includes:

Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF): Provides administrative and operational support to the DMU Chief.



Subject Matter Specialists: Livelihood, Rural Financing, and Marketing Specialist: He focuses on improving livelihood options, facilitating rural financing, and enhancing market access for project beneficiaries. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), GIS/MIS, REDD+ Specialist: He is responsible for monitoring and evaluating project progress, managing Geographic Information System (GIS) and Management Information System (MIS) data, and supporting REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) initiatives.

Project Accountant: Engaged on a contractual basis, this role involves managing financial transactions, maintaining accounts, and ensuring compliance with financial regulations.

1.5.8 Field Management Units

The implementation of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) at the field level is organized through Field Management Units (FMUs). Initially, 50 FMUs were established, but currently, there are 49 units. These FMUs are created within the existing Forest Ranges across 12 Territorial Forest Divisions. FMUs are responsible for implementing project activities at the field level, particularly at the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) level. These FMUs are critical for the direct execution of project interventions within local communities. Here are the details of the FMU structure and their roles:

Leadership: Each FMU is headed by an FMU Chief, who is tasked with overseeing all project interventions within their jurisdiction. The FMU Chief is supported by a Forester designated as the Assistant FMU Chief, providing additional management and operational support.

Support Team: The FMU Chief is further assisted by a team of professionals to ensure effective implementation of project activities. This team includes: Assistant FMU Chief: A Forester who assists the FMU Chief in managing daily operations and field activities. FMU Coordinators: Two specialists focusing on different aspects of the project (a) Micro Planning & Livelihood Support Coordinator: This role involves planning and supporting livelihood initiatives to enhance the economic well-being of the local communities and (b) Training & Process Documentation Coordinator: He is responsible for organizing training sessions and documenting processes to ensure transparency and knowledge dissemination. Project Accountant: Manages financial transactions, maintains accounts, and ensures that financial operations comply with regulatory requirements.

Role and Responsibilities of FMU:

- **Micro Planning:** Developing detailed micro plans in collaboration with the local communities to ensure that interventions are tailored to meet local needs.
- **Livelihood Support:** Implementing programs that support sustainable livelihoods, such as skill development, income generation activities, and market linkages.
- **Training:** Organizing training programs to build the capacity of VSS members and other stakeholders.
- **Process Documentation:** Ensuring that all processes and activities are well-documented, promoting transparency and accountability.
- **Financial Management:** Handling the financial aspects of project implementation, ensuring proper use of funds and maintaining accurate financial records.

This structure ensures that the FMUs are well-equipped to manage and execute project interventions effectively at the grassroots level. By leveraging the expertise of the FMU Chiefs and their support teams, the project aims to achieve sustainable forestry management and enhance the livelihoods of local communities.

1.5.9 Van Surakshya Samiti (VSS) / Eco Development Committees (EDC)

Under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a robust mechanism has been established for engaging and empowering local institutions like Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) and Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) to participate in project interventions through the Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode. Here are the key details and processes involved:

Identification and Engagement: Against the target of 1200 VSSs and 1 EDC, 1211 VSSs and 10 EDCs have been identified based on prescribed selection criteria. The willingness of these institutions was sought before involving them in the project interventions.

Joint Forest Management (JFM) Mode: Following the JFM Resolution, 2011 and its Amendment of 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between each VSS and the respective Divisional Management Unit (DMU). The MoU specifies the extent of the assigned area with geo-coordinates, detailed roles and responsibilities of both parties, and the facilities and usufructs sharing arrangements.

Recognition by Gram Sabha: The Executive Committee of each VSS is recognized by the Gram Sabha to function as a Sub-Committee of the Gram Sabha. This sub-committee is responsible for the protection and management of the forest assigned to the VSS.

Fund Transfer and Utilization: VSSs and EDCs receive funds directly from the DMU as per the Annual Plan of Operation (APO) during the respective financial year, in one or more instalments. This direct fund transfer mechanism promotes efficiency and timely implementation of project interventions as planned.

Roles and Responsibilities:

VSS/EDC: Responsible for planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of activities at the grassroots level as per the MoU agreements.

Project Implementation: The VSSs and EDCs implement project activities on the ground, ensuring alignment with the APO and MoU guidelines. Regular monitoring and reporting are conducted to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds and the execution of project interventions.

This structured approach ensures that local communities are actively involved in the management and protection of forest resources, promoting sustainable forestry practices and enhancing the livelihoods of the community members. The collaboration between DMUs, FMUs, VSSs, and EDCs fosters a participatory management model, critical for the success and sustainability of OFSDP-II.

1.5.10 Partner NGOs

Partner NGOs (P-NGOs) play a crucial role in the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) by supporting and mobilizing various community-based organizations at the field level. Here are the key aspects of their engagement and responsibilities:

Engagement and Supervision: P-NGOs have been engaged at the Field Management Unit (FMU) level to assist in the implementation of project activities. The teams from P-NGOs stationed at the FMU level are directly supervised by the FMU Chief, ensuring adherence to the Terms of Reference (ToR) and alignment with project goals.

Primary Responsibilities:

Community Mobilization: P-NGOs are responsible for mobilizing and engaging communities, including



Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs), Eco-Development Committees (EDCs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and Poorest of the Poor (POPs).

Institution Building: They assist in building and strengthening community institutions, ensuring they are well-organized and capable of managing project activities.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Micro Planning: Facilitating PRA exercises and developing micro plans in collaboration with the communities to ensure that interventions are tailored to local needs and priorities.

Implementation of Interventions: Supporting VSSs and EDCs in implementing project activities as per the Annual Plan of Operations (APO).

Coordination for Convergence: Collaborating with extension officers from different line departments to achieve inter-sectoral convergence in community development initiatives.

Income Generating Activities (IGAs): Helping community institutions like VSSs and SHGs to identify, plan, and execute sustainable income-generating activities.

Role in Project Activities:

- P-NGOs play a pivotal role in ensuring that the community-based organizations are actively involved in the project, fostering a sense of ownership and participation.
- They provide technical and logistical support, capacity building, and continuous guidance to the community institutions.
- Their involvement ensures that the project interventions are culturally appropriate, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable.

Coordination and Facilitation:

- P-NGOs work closely with FMUs to ensure seamless coordination and implementation of project activities.
- They facilitate communication between the community institutions and the project management structures, ensuring that feedback and progress are regularly monitored and addressed.

By engaging P-NGOs, OFSDP-II leverages local expertise and builds strong community partnerships, which are essential for the successful and sustainable implementation of the project. This approach not only enhances the effectiveness of project interventions but also empowers local communities to take an active role in forest management and sustainable development.

1.5.11 Animator

In the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), the engagement of Animators at the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) level is a critical component to ensure the smooth functioning and effective documentation of project activities. Here are the key details regarding their engagement and responsibilities:

Engagement and Honorarium: Each VSS engages two Animators, one male and one female animator who are compensated with an honorarium by the respective VSSs, following the prescribed guidelines of the project. This arrangement is in place for the initial two years of the project.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The Animators support the office bearers of the Executive Committee in their routine functions, ensuring efficient management and operation of the VSS.
- They assist VSS/EDC members in various activities, helping to enhance their participation and effectiveness in project interventions.
- Animators play a key role in maintaining accurate records and documentation of the VSS activities, which is crucial for monitoring and reporting purposes.

Transition to one Animator: From the third year onwards, the engagement strategy transitions to retaining one Animator per VSS, with a preference for selecting a female Animator. This Animator continues to work for the subsequent three years, providing ongoing support and ensuring continuity in the VSS operations.

Importance of female representation: The preference for a female Animator in the later years of the project highlights the emphasis on gender inclusion and empowerment. Female Animators can play a significant role in mobilizing women in the community, ensuring that their voices and contributions are recognized and integrated into the project activities.

Community empowerment: By engaging Animators, the project aims to build local capacity and ensure that VSS members are well-supported in their roles. Animators facilitate the effective implementation of project interventions, contributing to the overall success and sustainability of the project.

This strategy of engaging Animators not only enhances the operational efficiency of the VSSs but also fosters greater community involvement and ownership of the project. Their role is pivotal in bridging the gap between the project management and the community, ensuring that project goals are met through active and sustained participation of all stakeholders.

1.5.12 District Advisory Committee (DAC)

The establishment of the District Advisory Committee (DAC) is a significant step in ensuring the smooth implementation of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) across ten project districts in the state. Here are the key details and functions of the DAC:

Constitution and Purpose: The DAC was constituted by the Government through Notification No 8118 / F&E, dated April 21, 2017. It functions as a multi-sectoral coordination body to ensure optimal and effective inter-sectoral convergence of various ongoing government programs and schemes within the districts where OFSDP-II is implemented.

The DAC is established in the following ten project districts: Mayurbhanj, Ganjam, Boudh, Sonapur, Sambalpur, Angul, Sundergarh, Jharsuguda, Dhenkanal, and Kendrapada.

Committee Composition:

Chairperson: The District Collector heads the DAC, providing overall leadership and ensuring district-level coordination.

Member Convenor: The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the District Headquarters serves as the Member Convenor, facilitating communication and coordination among committee members.

Members: Senior officials from various line departments are members of the committee, ensuring representation from all relevant sectors.



Meeting Frequency: The DAC members meet at least once every two months. These regular meetings are crucial for discussing progress, addressing challenges, and planning coordinated actions for effective project implementation.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The DAC ensures effective coordination among different government departments and agencies, promoting synergies and avoiding overlaps in activities.
- It works towards the convergence of various government programs and schemes, aligning them with the objectives of OFSDP-II to maximize impact.
- The committee provides support and guidance for the implementation of project activities, addressing any administrative or logistic issues that arise.
- It monitors the progress of the project, evaluates the outcomes of interventions, and ensures that the project stays on track to meet its goals.

The DAC plays a critical role in facilitating the integration of OFSDP-II with other development initiatives in the district. It helps in leveraging additional resources, expertise, and support from various sectors, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of project interventions. By fostering a collaborative approach among different sectors and ensuring regular oversight, the District Advisory Committee significantly contributes to the successful implementation of OFSDP-II, ultimately benefiting the forest management efforts and the livelihoods of the local communities.

1.5.13 Block Level Advisory Committee (BLAC)

The Government of Odisha has constituted Block Level Advisory Committees to further support the effective implementation of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) at the block level. These committees play a vital role in ensuring coordinated efforts and convergence of various government programs and schemes within the respective blocks. Here are the key aspects of the committee:

Constitution and Purpose: The Block Level Advisory Committees were established through Notification No 4F (S)-03/2017 (Pt.) / 26724 / F&E, dated December 23rd, 2017. These committees are formed in 63 Blocks to cover areas within the 50 Field Management Units (FMUs) or Ranges of OFSDP-II. Their primary purpose is to facilitate smooth project implementation and act as multi-sectoral coordination bodies to ensure effective inter-sectoral convergence of ongoing government programs and schemes in the respective Community Development (CD) Blocks where OFSDP-II is implemented.

Committee Composition:

Chairperson: The Block Development Officer (BDO) of the respective Revenue Block chairs the committee meetings, providing leadership and ensuring coordination at the block level.

Member Convenor: The Headquarter Range Officer serves as the Member Convenor, facilitating communication and coordination among committee members and with the project management units.

Members: All block-level officials from various welfare departments are members of the committee, ensuring comprehensive representation from all relevant sectors involved in community and rural development.

Meeting Frequency: The Block Level Advisory Committee meets once every month. These regular meetings are essential for discussing progress, addressing challenges, and planning coordinated actions based on the needs identified by villagers during the micro-planning process.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Multi-Sectoral Coordination: The committee ensures effective coordination among different government departments and agencies operating at the block level, promoting synergies and avoiding overlaps in activities.

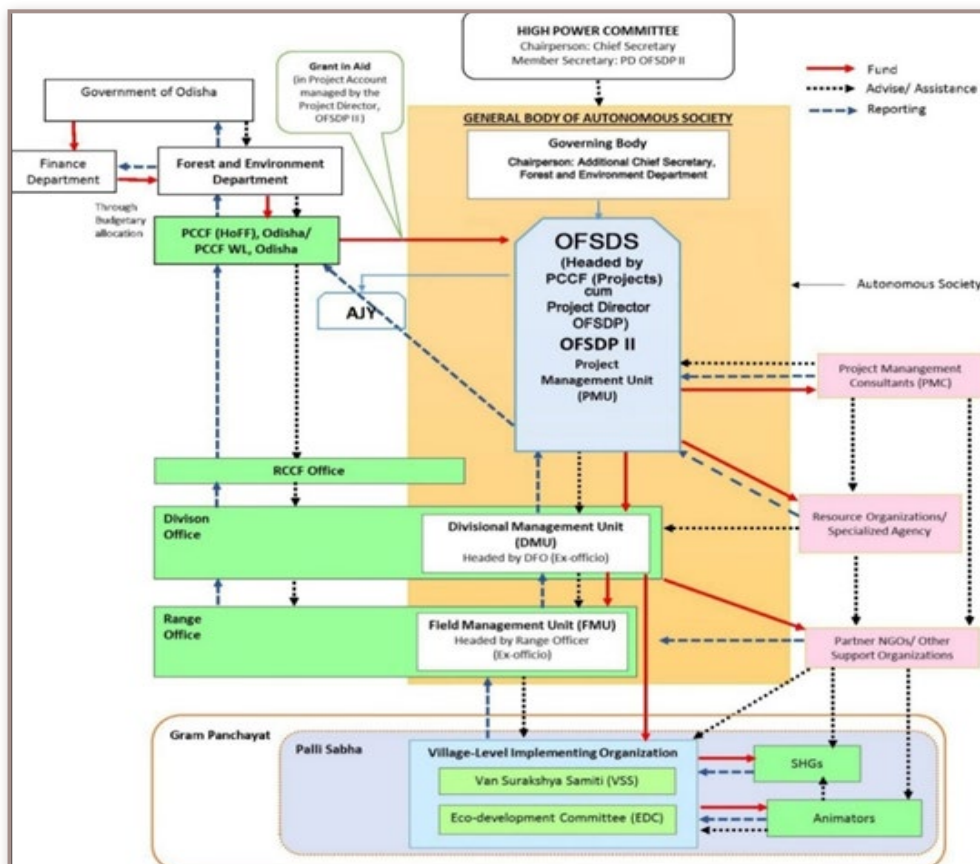
Convergence of Programs: It works towards the convergence of various government programs and schemes, aligning them with the objectives of OFSDP-II to maximize impact and resource utilization.

Support for Implementation: The committee provides support and guidance for the implementation of project activities, ensuring that interventions are in line with the needs identified by the community during micro-planning.

Facilitation of Government Schemes: It facilitates the implementation of government schemes and programs in project villages, addressing specific needs identified by the villagers.

The Block Level Advisory Committees play a critical role in integrating OFSDP-II activities with other development initiatives at the block level. By fostering a collaborative approach among different sectors, the committees enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of project interventions, ultimately benefiting forest management efforts and the livelihoods of local communities. The establishment of Block Level Advisory Committees ensures that the OFSDP-II can leverage additional resources and expertise from various sectors, promoting a holistic and integrated approach to rural development and forest conservation. Their regular oversight and support are crucial for addressing local needs and achieving the project's objectives.

1.5.14 The Organogram for implementation of OFSDP-II is as below:



1.5.15 Roles and responsibilities of different Institutions:

Institution	Roles and Responsibility
High Power Committee (HPC)	• Highest decision-making Authority of the Project • Approval of budget and Annual Plan of Operations of the Project; and review the project performance every six-months especially in the Preparatory Phase • Approval of the Operation Manual (including Financial Rules/ procedures) for the Project; • Framing operational procedures for the Project for smooth and effective implementation; • Facilitating inter-Departmental coordination for required synergy and convergence and also to supervise the minimizing duplication of efforts; • Taking up initiatives to resolve issues with GOI and JICA, if required.
Governing Body (GB)	• Highest decision-making body of the autonomous society • Providing authority to the PMU for day-to-day functioning; • Supporting the PMU in approval of Budget and Annual Plan of Operation, and other proposals of the project; • Rigorously review the project progress vis-à-vis Annual Plans at least once every quarter; monitor financial and physical progress • Facilitate sanction of budgets & release and monitor the fund disbursement status • Guide the PMU in the preparation of Operation Manual; • Prepare proposals for the HPC whenever necessary for the smooth implementation of the Project
Project Management Unit (PMU)	• Final decision maker with regards to day-to-day Project activities, and would utilize autonomy to ensure smooth and timely implementation of the project • PMU manages the budgets and releases and monitors the project activities • Keeps track of the project implementation, and responsible to guide, issue instructions, prepare guidelines, execute capacity development plan, establish and operate M&E system, • Undertake field visits and provide-hand holding support in field in almost all respect for ensuring efficient implementation of the project • Collate and consolidate the expenditure statements from DMU and FMU offices and prepare Statement of Expenditures for getting Reimbursement of Claims • Organize annual planning and review workshop at state level, and conduct AGM • Undertake statutory and internal/ concurrent audits
Project Management Consultants (PMC)	• Provides technical and managerial support to PMU • Supports PMU by a team of experts to augment various skills required for the project implementation

Institution	Roles and Responsibility
Circle Offices	• Are responsible for the regular overseeing of DMU offices • Cross-checking project works vis-à-vis financial and physical progress reporting • Conduct monthly meetings / hearings for Grievance Redressal • Chair and participate in Annual Planning and Review Workshop and other events organized at Division level
Divisional Management Unit (DMU)	• Assist the PMU in planning, fund management, work progress monitoring and documentation at the field level • Supervise, monitor, review and guide field functionaries and activities; and conduct monthly review meetings • Prepare physical and financial reports, and timely submit SOEs and utilization certificates • Maintain separate bank account and records for project funds, and facilitate audits • Organize annual planning and review workshop at Divisional level, and execute capacity building plan • Provide budgets to VSSs, EDCs, prepared as per approved micro-plans / Annual plans of Implementation
Field Management Unit (FMU)	• Assist the DMU in planning, fund management, work progress monitoring and documentation at the field level • Facilitate micro-planning process, and support its implementation • FMU will provide technical assistance directly to implementing institutions (VSSs, EDCs, SHGs) and Partner NGOs • Maintain separate bank account and records for project funds, and facilitate audits • Prepare physical and financial reports, and timely provide utilization certificates for all annual releases to FMU and VSSs/ EDCs
District Advisory Committee (DAC)	• For smooth implementation and to function as a multi-sector coordination body for ensuring optimum inter sectoral convergence of various ongoing government programmes / schemes in the District in which, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II is being implemented.
Block level Advisory Committee (BLAC)	• To function as a multi-sector coordination body for ensuring optimum inter sectoral convergence of various ongoing government programmes / schemes in the CD Block in which, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II is being implemented

Target and Achievements up to 2025-26 (Consolidated)

02 CHAPTER

2.1 Introduction

In the Financial Year 2025–26, the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II), completes eight years of implementation and steps into its ninth year. Over this period, the project has demonstrated significant progress through well-coordinated interventions and a strong commitment to sustainable forest management. As of the current reporting year, OFSDP-II has covered 1,210 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) across 49 Forest Management Units (FMUs) in 12 Forest Divisions across the state. All planned interventions are being actively implemented, reflecting the project's focus on inclusive, participatory and community-driven forest management.

The project adopts a holistic approach by promoting socio-ecological production landscapes, including initiatives such as the Satoyama model, which aim to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable livelihood enhancement. This integrated approach reinforces the project's vision of achieving ecological resilience while improving the socio-economic conditions of local communities.

In alignment with its commitment to ecosystem conservation, OFSDP-II has collaborated with the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, for the collection of baseline and monitoring data in the Bhitarkanika Conservation Area. This partnership supports long-term ecological monitoring of coastal ecosystems. A notable outcome of this initiative is the publication of the Ecological Health Report Card-3 (2023), which provides critical insights into ecosystem health and supports evidence-based management decisions. Overall, these efforts highlight OFSDP-II's comprehensive strategy for sustainable forestry, ecological conservation and strengthened community participation in Odisha.



Before Plantation



After Plantation

2.2 Target and Achievement up-to 2025-26 (Consolidated)

The consolidated Target and Achievement up-to 2025-26 are narrated in the table given below:

Sl.No.	Component	Activities	Target Details	Cumulative Achievements
1	Preparatory Works	1. Constitution of PMU, DMU, FMU and Deployment of Staff	1. PMU, 14 DMU, 51 FMU	1. PMU, 14 DMU, 51 FMU
		2. Deployment of P-NGO	51 Nos	34 Nos
		3. Engagement of PMC	1 Team.	1 Team.
		4. Orientation for PMU/DMU/FMU	1 PMU, 12 DMU, 50 FMU	1 PMU, 12 DMU, 50 FMUs
		5. Identification and constitution of VSSs /EDCs	1200 Nos.	1220 Nos
		6. Survey, demarcation and mapping of area assigned to VSSs.	1200 Nos.	1220 Nos; Assigned Area = 1,25,703 ha. Treatment Area = 57,292 ha.
		7. Review and revision of project Manuals /Guidelines	11 Nos	20 Nos
		8. Engagement of VSS/EDC Animators	2430 Numbers	2430 Numbers
		9. Micro Planning	1200 Nos	1220 Nos
		10. Annual Planning	1200 Nos	1220 Nos
		11. Revisit of Micro Plan (Fourth Year)	1200 Nos	1210 Nos in Batch-I, II, III, IV
		12. Social and Environmental Consideration	1 PMU, 12 DMU, 50 FMU	1 PMU, 12 DMU, 50 FMU
2	Sustainable Forest Management – JFM Mode	1. Assisted Natural Regeneration.	51000 ha.	51006 ha
		2. Artificial Regeneration.	6000 ha.	6286 ha
		3. Fire Protection.	1710 km.	1710.39 Km
		4. Drainage line treatment and Maintenance JFM.	1500 ha.	1504.5 ha
	Sustainable Forest Management – Non JFM Mode	5. Drainage line treatment and maintenance non JFM.	750 ha.	756.29 ha
		6. Consolidation and demarcation of forest boundaries.	1898 km.	1898 Km
		7. Setting up of Hi-Tech Nursery	6 Numbers	6 Nos
		8. Farm Forestry	10000 ha.	8880.5 ha



Sl.No.	Component	Activities	Target Details	Cumulative Achievements
3.	Sustainable Biodiversity Management	1. Sustainable biodiversity management incorporating concept of SATOYAMA model.	1 Sanctuary	1 Sanctuary: 10 EDCs
		2. Establishment of scientific monitoring system at Bhitarkanika	1 Sanctuary	1 Sanctuary: Health Report Card for 3 years published
4.	Livelihood Improvement	1. Community Development	1200 VSS 1 EDC	1210 VSSs 10 EDCs
		2. Promotion of IGA	3600 WSHG	4624 SHGs are being strengthened
5.	Capacity Development	1. Executing Agency	1 PMU, 12 DMUs, 50 FMUs	Capacity Building Training of All Stakeholders as per target completed. Till March, 2026: 5122 Nos of CBTs on 33 themes conducted covering 2,09,028 participants.
		2. Community Institutions	1200 VSS	
		3. Training of P-NGOs	50 Teams	
		4. Training of Animators	2400 Numbers	
		5. Promotion of product cluster at DMU	12 Numbers	
		6. Training of expansion of Farm Forestry	1200 VSS	
6.	Supporting Activities	1. Institutional and project management support	1 PMU, 14 DMUs, 51 FMUs & 7 Circle Offices.	1 PMU, 14 DMU, 50 FMU & 7 Circle Offices
		2. Monitoring and evaluation		
		3. Community based MRV system		

Revisit of Micro Plan

3.1 Introduction

Under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase II, preparation of Micro Plan at VSS / EDC level is perceived to be a guiding document for both management of forest areas assigned to the community under Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode as well as to plan for livelihood initiatives including income generating activities at the community level. It is a "Village Development Plan" which encompasses the expectations of the villagers, particularly the forest-dependent communities, Poorest of the Poor House Holds and other socially vulnerable sections of the village.

Micro Plan, prepared at the VSS / EDC level is a document which is used to plan out the needs and priorities of a community. It has been used to enable the forest fringe dwellers to effectively identify their needs and find means to fulfil them in a time bound manner. Micro Plan is a dynamic document and should address the requirements of changing times registering the achievements, the gaps and the prospects of addressing new domains within the available and restricted resources.

Under the aegis of OFSDP Phase-II, the Revisit of Micro Plan has been envisaged in the Project Document after 4 years of initial Micro Plan formulation to address the progress made so far, identify the gaps and explore the new possibilities. It should help in readjusting the project prescriptions from sustainable forest management to augment issues on Gender Mainstreaming, Community Based Monitoring Verification and Reporting and registering Environmental and Social Concerns in the form of Frameworks which can be monitored at the grass-root level by the community itself.

3.2 Rationale behind Revisit of Micro Plan

The rationale in revisiting the Micro Plans at the end of 4th year of implementation of the project is:

- To understand and review the status of implementation of work items proposed in the micro plan document.
- To capture changing needs of the community and try to address the same.
- To include components those were not reflected in the previous micro plan.
- To re-evaluate the relevance of the works which are in the plan but not taken up /addressed under the present-day scenario and to readjust the same.

3.3 Objectives of Revisit of Micro Plan

The objectives of the revisit of Micro Plan are:

- To ensure the community participation in assessing the progress made through the implementation of the Micro Plan by themselves.
- To examine each intervention in terms of the targets, achievements and progress.
- To incorporate and register the changing needs of the community.
- To realign the interventions with the changing needs of the community.
- To address the new concepts like Gender Mainstreaming, CMRV, and Social and Environmental considerations at community level.

3.4 The Process of Revisiting the Micro Plan

A comprehensive procedure has been adopted and the guidelines with uniform format for all VSSs has been issued in the form of "Hand Book for Micro Plan Revision" (prepared by the PMU / PMC Experts in both English and Odia) and was circulated to all DMU and FMUs both in hard and soft copies.

The Revisit of the Micro Plan is uniform for all VSSs / EDCs and includes the salient points like:

- Review of implementation status of the activities as per the existing micro plan document through Participatory Assessment,
- Analyze, review and list out the works proposed in the micro plan, and assess their relevance under present-day scenario.
- Integrating the principles of Gender mainstreaming in both Planning and Implementation involving women members as envisaged in Gender Action Plan (GAP).
- Educating the community about the Community Based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV) and adopting simple participatory tools for generating performance reports based on actual achievements at VSS level.
- Ensuring the needs and priorities of vulnerable groups of the village to be managed through Environmental and Social Safeguards Frameworks (ESMSF) during project implementation.
- Parallel community consultation through Focus Group Discussions (FGD) to capture and understand ever changing present-day priorities.
- Livelihood Initiatives planning through convergence, financial support through provision of Revolving Fund, and establishment of feeder and product clusters.

3.5 Progress of Re-visit of Micro Plans

In accordance to the Project Guidelines of OFSDP Phase-II, the Micro Plans prepared at the VSS level needs to be reviewed / revisited after four years on completion of implemented activities. Accordingly, the Micro Plans prepared for the VSSs of different Batches were revisited phase wise and during the year 2025-26, Micro Plans of 31 VSSs of Batch IV (Addl), covering 11 FMUs of 5 DMUs, were revisited through PRA exercise and active involvement of VSS members.

The cumulative progress of revisit of Micro Plans till 2025-26 is as follows:

Name of DMU/ Division	Revision of Micro Plans carried out Till March 2026				
	Batch – I VSSs during 2022-23	Batch – II VSSs during 2023-24	Batch-III and IV VSSs during 2024-25	Batch-IV Addl. during 2025-26	Total
Baripada	45	70	19	--	134
Rairangpur	40	60	07	--	107
Karanjia	20	20	40	--	80
Dhenkanal	25	27	98	--	150
Athamallik	20	25	29	--	74
Sundargarh	30	60	60	06	156
Jharsuguda	29	51	05	03	88
Sambalpur	55	20	25	--	100
Subarnapur	25	25	25	09	84
Boudh	20	20	23	08	71
Gh. North	25	24	51	--	100
Gh. South	20	20	20	05	65
Total	354	422	402	31	1209

Out of the total 1210 VSSs covered under OFSDP Phase-II, revisit of 1209 VSSs has been timely completed and one VSS of Baripada Division of Batch-I (Kaptipada Range) could not be revised due to local issues.

In the process, the initial Micro Plan Documents prepared for the VSSs were analysed by the villagers in a participatory approach (PRA Exercise) involving the VSS members, local SHGs and the field functionaries of DMU, FMU, P-NGO Team etc.

The capacity building training and orientation of all field functionaries were organized at FMU level by the Master Trainers of the DMU / P-NGO Team for each and every batch before start of the process of revisit of Micro Plans.

The VSS / local SHGs and community members were actively involved in the process of revisiting the Micro Plans. The officials from PMU, PMC, DMU & FMU facilitated the processes at different level to make the revisit of micro plan effective and relevance to the community need and priorities.





PRA Exercise, FGD and Review meetings for Revisit of Micro Plans

3.6 Revisit of Micro Plans of EDCs covered under Satoyama Initiative

On the basis of observations of JICA Team on their visit to the project villages / EDCs covered under SATOYAMA Initiatives in Badrama WL sanctuary of Bamra WL Division during February 2025, revision of Micro Plans of all 10 EDCs was planned during the year 2025-26. As the project components implemented in the EDCs covered under SATOYAMA Initiative is different from that of the VSSs covered under OFSDP Phase-II, a separate set of guidelines was prepared in the form of *Hand Book for Micro Plan Revision for EDCs* and accordingly the revision of Micro Plans of EDCs has been taken up.

A Capacity Building and Training of the staff of Badrama WL Range of Bamra WL Division and SMS & PNGO staff of Sambalpur Division was exclusively held in June 2025 for carrying out the revision of Micro Plans of EDCs. The Joint Project Director, PMU, PMC Experts, RCCF Sambalpur and DFO Bamra WL Division attended the programme as the resource persons.



Capacity Building Training programme for revisit of Micro Plans of EDCs

As per the guidelines of the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision of EDCs, Micro Plans of all 10 EDCs covered under Satoyama Initiative was carried out with active participation of local EDC members, SHG members, staff of Badrama WL range, Development Officers engaged under the Project and the PNGO staff deputed from Sambalpur DMU through PRA exercise in each EDC.



3.7 Review and Feedback on Revised Micro Plans

Sample copies of the draft Revised Micro Plans were received from all 5 DMUs and scrutinised at the PMU level by the CFM and Micro Plan Expert of the PMC. Feedback with need for modifications / revision on the data / observations / prescriptions on the draft sample Micro Plan is communicated to the concerned Divisions through PMU.

The number of Micro Plans reviewed at PMU level batch wise is as follows:

Batch of VSS / EDCs	Total no of Micro Plans Revised	Total no. of Micro Plans scrutinized at PMU level
Batch-I	354	53
Batch-II	422	52
Batch-III & IV	402	59
Batch-IV (Addl)	31	16
EDCs under Satoyama Initiative	10	4

The PMC Experts use to conduct review / discussion on the observations / feedbacks for the sample Revised Micro Plans received from the Division with the DMU Chief, Asst. DMU Chief, SMSs and the FMU level functionaries like the FMU Chief, Asst. FMU Chief, FMU Coordinators, PNGO staff, Member Secretaries and Animators of the VSSs. The observations / feedbacks on different chapters are discussed at length and subsequently rectified / modified / incorporated in the Micro Plan before it is finalised and presented before the Gram Sabha for approval. The PMC Team also visit and interact with the VSS / SHG members at some VSSs during their review of revisit of Micro Plans to obtain first hand information on revisit of micro plans from the VSS / SHG members.



Review of Feedback / observations at DMU / FMU level by PMC Experts



Interaction of PMC Experts with VSS Members

4.1 Site-Specific Planning and Monitoring (JFM Mode)

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) interventions under OFSDP-II have been implemented in a phased and systematic manner across 1,210 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) through the Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach. These interventions are continuously monitored by community representatives, thereby strengthening participatory governance at the grassroots level.

During the monitoring process, issues and challenges are documented through resolutions at the VSS level. Based on these inputs, appropriate corrective measures—such as maintenance of Drainage Line Treatment (DLT) structures, fire line upkeep, restocking of plantations, post-planting care, and targeted silvicultural operations—are planned and implemented. This inclusive and responsive approach has significantly enhanced community ownership and stewardship of project assets. By integrating local knowledge into decision-making, OFSDP-II has improved both the sustainability and effectiveness of forest management practices.

4.2 Drainage Line Treatment (DLT) under JFM and Non-JFM Modes

Under the ridge-to-valley approach adopted by OFSDP-II, comprehensive Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures have been implemented both within and beyond the VSS areas. This integrated strategy ensures effective watershed management from upper catchments to downstream areas.

DLT interventions within VSS areas are carried out through community participation under JFM mode, while works outside VSS jurisdiction are implemented under Non-JFM mode to cover broader landscapes. Key interventions include gully plugging, staggered trenches, percolation pits and check dams which have significantly improved soil moisture retention and groundwater recharge.

All DLT structures were completed by the end of FY 2021–22, ensuring optimal ecological benefits and efficient resource utilization.

The batch-wise details of DLT structures established under OFSDP-II are provided below:

Establishment of DLT Structures under OFSDP-II (All Batches)

Batch	No of Ranges (FMUs)	No of VSSs	Year of execution	DLT on JFM Mode (In ha)	DLT on Non JFM Mode (In ha)	Total DLT (In ha)
Batch-I	15	355	2018-19	446	222	668
Batch-II	18	422	2019-20	530	270	800
Batch-III & IV	16	402	2020-21	502	251	753
Batch-IV (31 VSSs)	-	31	2021-22	26	13	39
Total	49	1210		1504	756	2260

Maintenance of DLT Structures

To ensure long-term functionality, DLT structures are maintained periodically under both JFM and Non-JFM modes. Maintenance activities include repair and upkeep of check dams, gully plugs, trenches, and water harvesting structures after the first and third years of implementation. All maintenance work of DLT JFM and Non-JFM were completed in 2024-25.



Plantation through ANR and AR

Plantation activities under Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) and Artificial Regeneration (AR) have been carried out extensively in project villages through JFM mode. These interventions focus on restoring degraded forest areas using appropriate models such as ANR with and without gap planting, and AR for fuelwood, fodder, and NTFP species.

Indigenous species are selected based on VSS micro-plans, ensuring ecological suitability and community acceptance.

The consolidated figure of plantations taken up under the project is given below:

Division	Year	ANR Without Gap (In Ha)	ANR with Gap (in Ha)	AR (In Ha)	Total (in Ha)	Total Seedlings planted (Nos.)
Athmallik	2019-20	391	465	92	948	295800
	2020-21	443	637	113	1193	339600
	2021-22	131	1194	209	1534	541400
	Total	965	2296	414	3675	1176800
Baripada	2019-20	550	355	0	905	95000
	2020-21	929	120	126	1175	177000
	2021-22	48	110	181	339	392600
	Total	1527	585	307	2419	664600
Boudh	2019-20	1614	448	28	2090	200000
	2020-21	364	530	61	955	299200
	2021-22	107	899	163	1169	603600
	2022-23	21	194	56	271	151100
	Total	2106	2071	308	4485	1253900
Dhenkanal	2019-20	319	745	95	1159	299200
	2020-21	370	732	155	1257	377800
	2021-22	126	3899	679	4704	1737500
	Total	1115	5376	929	7420	2414500
Ghumsur (N)	2019-20	319	536	45	900	304000
	2020-21	771	390	17	1178	108800
	2021-22	222	2041	349	2612	968700
	Total	1312	2967	411	4690	1381500



Ghumsur (S)	2019-20	255	595	100	950	471100
	2020-21	443	414	100	957	203400
	2021-22	87	803	133	1023	536400
	2022-23	13	213	12	238	82000
	Total	798	2025	354	3177	1292900
Jharsuguda	2019-20	348	863	145	1356	604000
	2020-21	988	991	198	2177	517000
	2021-22	35	140	85	260	167000
	2022-23	9	80	20	109	50300
	Total	1380	2074	448	3902	1338300
Karanjia	2019-20	765	396	17	1178	185900
	2020-21	255	807	32	1094	254600
	2021-22	174	2270	295	2739	1082600
	Total	1194	3473	344	5011	1523100
Rairangpur	2019-20	585	1115	112	1812	350000
	2020-21	954	2672	88	3714	676100
	2021-22	48	238	17	303	54400
	Total	1587	4025	217	5829	1080500
Sambalpur	2019-20	755	1332	671	2758	1804600
	2020-21	255	595	105	955	378300
	2021-22	109	995	173	1277	482000
	Total	1119	2922	949	4990	2664900
Subarnapur	2019-20	319	743	225	1287	747700
	2020-21	319	744	130	1193	473300
	2021-22	109	995	173	1277	698900
	2022-23	24	145	205	374	128000
	Total	771	2627	733	4131	2047900
Sundergarh	2019-20	382	893	148	1423	701700
	2020-21	766	1784	317	2867	1017100
	2021-22	262	2388	416	3066	1337200
	2022-23	16	200	0	216	40000
	Total	1426	5265	881	7572	3096000
Grand Total		15300	35706	6286	57292	19934900

Maintenance of Previous Year's Plantations

Plantations taken up in FY 2022-23 in 31 VSSs under the fold of OFSDP-II in different batches were maintained during 2025-26 as detailed below:

4 th year Maintenance of ANR & AR taken up in 31 VSSs during 2025-26									
Division	No of FMUs	No of VSSs	ANR without gap in Ha	ANR with 200 Seedlings in Ha	ANR with 400 Seedlings in Ha	ANR with 800 Seedlings in Ha	AR – Fuel Fodder @ 2500 Seedlings in Ha	AR – NTFP @ 400 Seedlings in Ha	AR – Other Block @ 1600 Seedlings in Ha
Boudh	01	8	21	129	31	34	17	16	23
Ghumsur (S)	01	5	13	138	50	25	0	4	8

Jharsuguda	01	3	9	40	40	0	7	10	3
Subarnapur	01	9	24	60	85	0	0	205	0
Sundergarh	01	6	16	200	0	0	0	0	0
Total	05	31	83	567	206	59	24	235	34

Fire Line Creation and Maintenance

Forest fire management is a critical component of SFM. Fire lines of 4-meter width have been created across 1,710 km in project areas and are regularly maintained. Community awareness programmes, early detection systems, and participatory fire prevention strategies have significantly reduced fire incidences.

Continued community involvement and proactive planning have proven essential in minimizing fire risks and protecting forest resources.



Consolidation and Demarcation of Forest Boundaries

Clear demarcation of forest boundaries (RF, PRF, and DPF) has been undertaken to prevent encroachment and improve management efficiency. Boundary pillars have been repaired, geo-referenced and properly maintained.

A total of 1,898 km of forest boundaries across 229 forest blocks have been demarcated, enhancing protection, planning and sustainable management.

Farm Forestry Operations

Farm forestry initiatives have been implemented through collaboration with farmers and technical institutions. Suitable agroforestry models and species have been selected based on local conditions and stakeholder consultations.

Up to 2025–26, 8,880.50 hectares have been covered under farm forestry, benefiting over 19,350 farmers. These interventions have strengthened livelihoods while reducing pressure on natural forests.



Achievements of National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai at Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (2017-18 to 2025-26)

05 CHAPTER

5.1 Introduction and Background

The Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (BCA), situated in the eastern Indian state of Odisha, is widely recognized as one of the country's most ecologically rich and sensitive coastal ecosystems. It comprises an intricate network of mangrove forests, tidal creeks, mudflats, estuaries and freshwater wetlands. This ecological mosaic supports remarkable biodiversity including the endangered saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), numerous species of resident and migratory birds and serves as an important habitat linked to the nesting grounds of Olive Ridley turtles along the Odisha coast.

Recognizing its ecological significance and vulnerability to climate change and anthropogenic pressures, the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management initiated a comprehensive, long-term ecosystem-based monitoring and conservation programme in December 2017. This initiative, carried out in close collaboration with the Odisha Forest Department, has continued through 2026 with the objective of strengthening scientific understanding and supporting sustainable management of the region.

5.2 Establishment of Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Systems

One of the most significant contributions of NCSCM has been the establishment of a scientifically robust, long-term environmental monitoring framework across the Bhitarkanika region. Around 40 strategically distributed monitoring stations were set up to collect data on key environmental parameters, including water quality, sediment characteristics and biological indicators.

Advanced tools such as real-time data buoys were deployed to continuously record parameters like salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. This real-time monitoring capability greatly enhanced the ability to detect environmental changes, assess ecosystem health and respond promptly to emerging threats. The systematic data collection has also created a valuable long-term dataset for future research and policy-making.



5.3 Ecosystem Health Assessment

NCSCM developed an innovative **Ecosystem Health Report Card** for Bhitarkanika, which integrates multiple indicators such as biodiversity status, water quality, habitat condition and ecological productivity. This report card serves as a comprehensive diagnostic tool that translates complex scientific data into easily interpretable scores and trends.

The report card has enabled policymakers and forest managers to adopt evidence-based decision-making approaches. It also helps in identifying degraded zones, prioritizing conservation actions and tracking improvements over time thereby strengthening adaptive management practices.

5.4 Biodiversity and Ecological Research

Extensive biodiversity assessments carried out under the programme have significantly enriched the scientific understanding of Bhitarkanika's ecosystems. Studies were conducted on a wide range of ecological components, including plankton communities, benthic organisms, lichens, fish diversity and higher wildlife species.

These investigations helped establish baseline ecological data, identify biodiversity hotspots, and detect sensitive or vulnerable zones within the conservation area. The research also contributed to understanding ecological interactions and food web dynamics which are critical for maintaining ecosystem balance.

5.5 Climate Change and Blue Carbon Studies

A major highlight of NCSCM's work has been its focus on climate change and the role of mangroves in carbon sequestration. The installation of **eddy covariance flux towers** enabled precise measurement of carbon exchange between the ecosystem and the atmosphere.

In addition, comprehensive assessments of above-ground and below-ground carbon stocks demonstrated that Bhitarkanika's mangroves function as highly efficient **blue carbon sinks**. These findings underscore the global importance of conserving mangrove ecosystems as natural climate solutions, contributing to both mitigation and adaptation strategies.

5.6 Hydrological and Coastal Process Studies

NCSCM conducted detailed studies on hydrological processes, including freshwater inflows (eco-flows), tidal dynamics, sediment transport and shoreline changes. These studies improved understanding of how natural processes and human interventions influence the structure and functioning of the ecosystem.

Insights gained from these analyses have been crucial for maintaining ecological balance, especially in regulating salinity regimes, preventing erosion and ensuring the sustainability of mangrove habitats. The findings also support coastal zone management and planning efforts in the region.

5.7 Pollution Monitoring and Assessment

The programme included systematic monitoring of pollution levels within the Bhitarkanika ecosystem. Research focused on emerging environmental concerns such as microplastics, nutrient loading and air quality parameters.

These studies helped identify pollution sources, assess their ecological impacts, and recommend mitigation strategies. The findings are particularly important for controlling land-based pollution inputs and ensuring the long-term health of aquatic and mangrove ecosystems.



5.8 Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

To ensure the sustainability of monitoring and conservation efforts, NCSCM invested significantly in capacity building. Modern laboratory facilities were established, and training programmes were conducted for forest officials, researchers and field staff.

These initiatives enhanced local technical expertise in environmental monitoring, data analysis, and ecosystem management. By strengthening institutional capacity, the programme ensured that conservation efforts could continue effectively beyond the project duration.

5.9 Socio-Ecological Integration

Recognizing that conservation success depends on community participation, NCSCM integrated socio-economic studies into its programme. Surveys were conducted to understand local livelihoods, resource dependency and socio-economic conditions of communities residing around Bhitarkanika.

The insights gained helped design strategies that balance ecological conservation with sustainable livelihood opportunities. This approach promotes community engagement, reduces resource conflicts and fosters long-term stewardship of natural resources.

5.10 Conclusion

The work carried out by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management between 2018 and 2026 has transformed the Bhitarkanika Conservation Area into a model landscape for integrated coastal ecosystem management. Through the integration of advanced scientific monitoring, ecological research, climate studies, pollution assessment and community engagement, the programme has significantly strengthened conservation outcomes.

Importantly, the initiative has demonstrated how science-based approaches can inform policy, improve management practices and ensure the resilience of fragile coastal ecosystems in the face of climate change and human pressures. Bhitarkanika now stands as a benchmark for similar conservation efforts across India and other tropical coastal regions.

Livelihood Initiatives under OFSDP-II

6.1 Introduction

Enhancing the livelihoods of forest fringe dwellers through a holistic, inclusive, and sustainable approach constitutes a core objective of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase II (OFSDP-II). The project aims to promote sustainable livelihoods by integrating economic viability, ecological sustainability, and social inclusiveness. The cluster approach has been adopted as a key strategy to enhance sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest fringe dwellers. By strengthening production systems, promoting aggregation, facilitating collective marketing, and enabling value addition, this approach effectively addresses the diverse needs and challenges faced by these communities.

The convergence approach recognizes that sustainable development requires coordinated efforts across different domains. The involvement of various line departments through convergence and the utilization of project funds indicates the project's collaborative and multi-sectoral approach to livelihood improvement. Community mobilization and skill upgradation are essential components for successful livelihood initiatives. The project empowers grassroots communities, fostering a sense of ownership and active participation, thereby ensuring sustained and long-term impact.

6.2 Strategies

The livelihood intervention strategies under the project underscore a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by forest fringe dwellers. The key strategies are outlined below:

- i. **Micro Plan as a tool for community development:** Preparation of Micro plan and revisit of Micro plan after 4th year of the project depict a bottom-up approach where communities actively participate in the planning process to identify their needs, resources, and priorities. Microplanning at the VSS/EDC level ensures that interventions are designed to the specific context and requirements of each community.
- ii. **Common Facility Centre:** VSS building-cum-IGA facilitation centre has been set up in each VSS/EDC as a common facility centre. This is being used as a hub for various income-generating activities (IGAs) and community meetings. Resources, knowledge, and support services can be accessed by community members in this centre. 5 of those facility centre has been upgraded to Enterprise Facilitation Center for processing of small quantity produces.
- iii. **Community Development through Inter-Sectoral Convergence:** Convergence in terms of collaboration and coordination among different development sectors, represented by line departments ensures a holistic approach to community development in the project area. By leveraging resources and expertise from various line departments, the project is being able to address multiple dimensions of livelihood improvement effectively.
- iv. **Provisioning of Revolving Fund to VSSs:** Provisioning of Revolving Funds to VSSs/EDCs enables them to initiate and sustain income-generating activities through the SHGs/CIGs/PoP members. These funds

is kept for seed capital in order to start any small enterprises, equipment purchase, or other business investments, with returns for rotation of funds among the community.

- v. **Livelihood Resource Centre for strategic planning:** Livelihood Resource Centre set up under OFSDP-II serves as a knowledge hub for providing handholding support, information, training, and technical assistance to the field functionaries in the project, and to the VSSs/EDCs/SHG members for strategic planning and implementation of livelihood activities.
- vi. **Establishment of Multi Product Clusters:** Cluster approach is the focus for collective marketing, and value addition of forest and non-forest based products for enhancing their economic viability. Multi Product Clusters (MPCs) are set up with an objective to promote entrepreneurship and viable market linkages while adding value to the local potential produces.
- vii. **Engagement of Marketing and Management Support Agency (MMSA):** Collaborating with MMSA helps the project in promoting and scaling up livelihood initiatives. MMSA provides expertise in market analysis, branding, facilitating better market linkages for forest fringe products.
- viii. **Participation of VSSs and SHGs in State Level Tribal and Herbal Fairs:** Participation of VSS /SHG members of various forest divisions in the State-level fairs provides exposure to wide range of marketing opportunities for the local products. Participation in these fairs enhances visibility, networking, and market access for community-produced goods.

6.3 Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC).

The Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) is a dedicated unit established under the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS). It is mandated to provide comprehensive technical, managerial, and institutional support to product clusters with a focus on promoting sustainable Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

The LRC functions as a critical facilitation and support mechanism by extending continuous handholding assistance to grassroots institutions such as VSSs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and Poorest of Poor (POP) households. Through this sustained engagement, it enables community-level institutions to effectively plan, implement, and scale up livelihood interventions in a sustainable manner.

In addition to its role within the project framework, the LRC also extends its technical and livelihood promotion support to other flagship initiatives implemented by OFSDS, including Ama Jangala Yojana (AJY) and projects supported by the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC). This ensures convergence, optimal resource utilization, and enhanced impact across programmes.

The Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) emphasizes the promotion of alternative livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities through strategic interventions such as inter-sectoral convergence and the provision of Revolving Funds to borrowing entities. These measures are designed to enhance access to financial resources, strengthen enterprise development, and reduce dependency on forest resources.

To ensure effective coordination and convergence among various line departments and project authorities, a multi-tier institutional framework has been established, comprising committees at the State, District, Division, and Grassroots levels. These committees facilitate structured planning, convergence of schemes, and streamlined implementation of government programmes at the community level.

Through this integrated approach, the LRC enables efficient delivery of services, avoids duplication of efforts, and ensures that the intended benefits reach forest-dependent households, thereby contributing to their socio-economic upliftment and long-term livelihood security.

6.4 Community Development through Micro Planning:

The Micro Plan is a critical planning document prepared at the Village level, serving as a comprehensive blueprint for the implementation of various project interventions. It is developed through a participatory process with active involvement of the community, ensuring that local needs, priorities, and resource conditions are adequately reflected.

Furthermore, the Micro Plan is subject to periodic review and revision, typically after four years of project implementation, to incorporate emerging needs, lessons learned, and changing socio-economic or ecological conditions. This iterative approach ensures the continued relevance, adaptability, and effectiveness of planned interventions.

The methodology for preparation and subsequent revision of Micro Plans is outlined below:

- **Community Engagement:** The preparation of the initial micro plan involves active participation from community members. Partner NGOs and project personnel facilitate this process using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools.
- **Drafting and Feedback:** Once the micro plan is drafted, it is presented to the General Body of the respective VSSs for feedback and approval.
- **Formal Approval:** After the General Body approves the micro plan, it is submitted to the Gram Sabha for final endorsement.
- **Incorporation in Panchayat Plans:** Approved micro plans are then discussed in the Panchayat Samiti planning meetings to be integrated into the broader perspective plans of the Panchayats.

6.5 Revisiting and Updating

- **Periodic Review:** after completion of four year in the project, existing micro plans of each VSSs/EDCs are revisited to reflect the current needs and priorities of the community.
- **Continued Community Involvement:** The revision process, like the initial preparation, heavily involves community participation, ensuring the plan remains relevant and effective.

Current Status:

- **Micro Plans Formulated:** To date, 1230 Micro Plans have been developed and approved by the Gram Sabhas across 1,210 VSSs and 10 Eco-Development Committees (EDCs).
- **Revised Plans:** Out of these, 1230 Micro Plans have been revisited and updated to align with current conditions and requirements.

This structured approach ensures that the Micro Plans are not only community-driven but also remains dynamic and responsive to changing circumstances.

6.6 Developing Common Facility Centre; VSS Building-cum-IGA Facilitation Centre:

The VSS Building cum IGA Facilitation Centre has been constructed based on the identified need for a Common Facility Centre during the preparation of village development plans or micro plans. These centres serve as valuable assets to the villagers, providing spaces for conducting meetings, cultural programs, health camps, storing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), drying yards, animal health camps, training sessions, and many more. Under OFSDP-II, a VSS Building cum IGA Facilitation Centre has been constructed in each of the VSSs and EDCs. As of March 2026, a total of 1230 such centres have been completed and in use.

6.7 Inter-Sectoral Convergence:

To ensure effective coordination with line departments and achieve inter-sectoral convergence under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a comprehensive institutional framework has been established at various levels.

Key Institutional Structures:

1. Apex Entities:
 - High-Powered Committee (HPC): This is the top-level body responsible for overseeing the project.
 - Governing Body of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS): This body collaborates closely with the HPC to issue directives to relevant line departments, ensuring seamless integration and synergy with the OFSDP-II initiatives.
2. District and Block Level Advisory Committees:
 - District Level Advisory Committees (DAC): Chaired by the District Collector, these committees include senior officials from various line departments at the district level. The DAC convenes quarterly to discuss and coordinate project activities.
 - Block Level Advisory Committees (BLAC): Led by the Block Development Officers, these committees comprise senior officials from line departments at the block level. The BLAC holds monthly meetings to ensure regular and focused implementation.

Roles and Activities:

- Facilitation of Inter-Sectoral Convergence: The DACs and BLACs play a crucial role in facilitating the smooth implementation of the inter-sectoral convergence program under OFSDP-II. They help integrate various government schemes and ensure their execution in the project villages.
 - Implementation of Livelihood Development Plan: These committees are instrumental in implementing the Livelihood Development Plan by leveraging resources and support from different sectors.
 - Community Development through Convergence: At the VSS level, various community development activities, known as Entry Point Activities (EPAs), are carried out through convergence. These include among others:
 - Repair and maintenance of approach roads and tube wells.

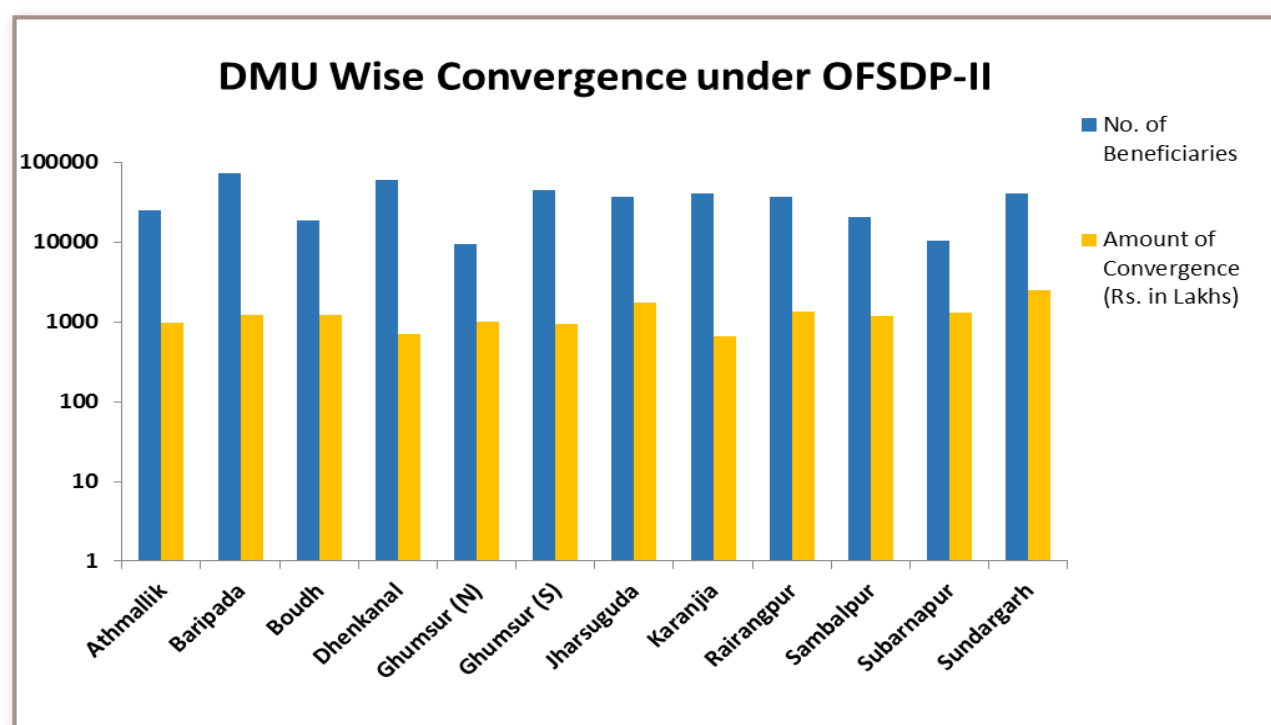


- Cleaning of drains.
- Installation of streetlights.
- Organization of animal and human health camps, and other initiatives.

The structured approach at multiple levels ensures that the project achieves optimal synergy and inter-sectoral convergence, facilitating the successful implementation of development activities in the OFSDP-II project areas.

DMU wise Convergence During 2025-2026

Name of DMU	No. of VSSs Covered	No. of H.H Covered	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount of Convergence (Rs. in Lakhs)
Athmallik	74	8686	24525	962.89
Baripada	135	18534	72686	1229.78
Boudh	71	6428	18801	1231.58
Dhenkanal	150	21939	58985	702.74
Ghumsur (N)	100	9378	9378	1011.14
Ghumsur (S)	65	14028	44582	953.77
Jharsuguda	88	18412	37243	1762.05
Karanjia	80	11897	41003	664.38
Rairangpur	107	10105	37031	1329.02
Sambalpur	100	10397	20268	1193.86
Subarnapur	84	10459	10459	1291.60
Sundargarh	156	39979	39979	2492.64
Grand Total	1210	180242	414940	14825.46



During the Financial Year 2025-26 a sum of Rs.14825.46 lakhs have been mobilized covering 4.14 lakhs beneficiaries belonging to 1.80 lakh households. Different type of works of line departments have been executed by the VSSs/EDCs for IGA promotion. Details of the convergence activity is given in the following table. So far, 1210 VSSs and 10 EDCs have been covered under convergence during the reporting period. Departments like Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Soil Conservation, SC & ST Dev., Women and Child Development, Horticulture, Fisheries & ARD, Health & Family Welfare, Irrigation, PWD etc. have made significant contribution to the OFSDP-II project area through inter-sectoral convergence.

Department Wise Convergence During 2025-2026 Under OFSDP-II		
Department	Total Beneficiaries (In Nos.)	Amount of Convergence (Rupees in Lakh)
Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment	7833	250.47036
Corporate & Bank	3002	758.80
Department of Water Resource	3864	212.99
Dept. of Mission Shakti	1146	305.57001
Dept. of Energy & OREDA	1179	39.07757
Dept. of Industry	455	18.02072
District Mineral Foundation	433	19.296
Fisheries and ARD Department	7760	452.8048
Forest, Environment & Climate Change	7710	118.70067
Handloom & Textile Dept.	250	43.74
Health & FW Dept.	4581	41.9874
Horticulture Dept.	5680	194.95643
Irrigation	10925	525.66221
Labour Dept.	22	0.044
Ministry of Communication	577	315
Ministry of Food Processing	3	0
MP/MLA LAD	1810	42
NGO	2205	54.218
Others (Municipality, CSR, etc.)	14	0
Panchaytiraj & Drinking Water	333770	9452.91808
PWD	2723	649.0045
Revenue & Disaster Management	35	0.045
Rural Development	2263	626.07
SC & ST Dev. Dept.	7341	250.23305
School & Mass Education	1113	18.44375



Sericulture	721	57.8648
Skill Development & Technical Education	388	15.678
Social Security & Empowerment	26	1.115
Soil Conservation Dept.	4543	231.976
Urban Devt.	209	18
Women and Child Development	1995	98.85
Planning & Convergence	255	9.92
Ministry of Coal	109	2
Grand Total (Convergence)	414940	14825.46

6.8 Utilisation of Revolving Funds by VSSs/EDCs:

The Revolving Fund (RF) is a one-time grant provided to each VSS/EDC under the project, aimed at extending financial support to Self Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and Poorest of Poor (PoP) households for undertaking Income Generating Activities (IGAs) to augment household income. The fund is designed to improve access to small-scale credit required for investment in livelihood activities at the community level.

To ensure its effective utilization, a comprehensive Revolving Fund Guideline has been developed, outlining the operational procedures, eligibility criteria, and fund management protocols. Capacity building and training programmes have been conducted for project personnel to strengthen their ability to manage and administer the fund efficiently at the VSS level.

Further, a Loan Appraisal Committee has been constituted in each project VSS to critically examine business plans submitted by borrowing entities and to approve loans based on viability and sustainability considerations. Borrowing entities, including SHGs, CIGs, and PoP households, are required to prepare and submit a detailed business plan to avail financial assistance from the Revolving Fund through the VSS.

Status of Utilisation of RF during (2025-26)

Total no. of DMUs	12
No. of FMUs	48
No. of VSS Released RF	1177
Total Amount Disbursed to Borrowing Entities (SHG/CIG/PoP) Rs. in Lakh	524.84 Lakhs
Total Amount repaid by BEs (Rs. in Lakh)	557.32 Lakhs
No. of SHGs received Loan	386
No. of CIGs received Loan	55
No. of PoPs received Loan	2350
Total number of beneficiaries benefitted	6596

During 2025-26 total amount of Rs. 52.48 Crore has been disbursed to the SHGs, CIGs, & PoP members out of which Rs. 55.73 Crore has been refunded by the Borrowing Entities. Total beneficiaries; SHG=386, CIG=55, PoP =2305.

6.9 Value addition through Establishment of Product Cluster:

Sustainable income generation and access to lucrative markets for forest fringe dwellers and forest-dependent communities constitute a core component in achieving the overarching objectives of OFSDP-II. This initiative is designed to enhance household incomes, thereby promoting resilient and sustained livelihoods while significantly reducing biotic pressure on forest ecosystems.

The establishment of Multi-Product Clusters (MPCs) across Project Divisions is a key mandate under OFSDP-II. The cluster-based approach serves as an effective strategy for fostering long-term economic opportunities by aggregating production, strengthening value chains, and improving market linkages. These clusters empower primary producers and collectors to secure remunerative prices for their products, ensuring stable and sustainable income streams.

Establishment of Multi Product Clusters not only fosters economic growth but also strengthens the collective bargaining power of the community, enhances market access, and improves overall quality of the products. Through this approach, the project aims to create a sustainable and resilient economic model that benefits the forest-dependent communities in the long term.

Multi Product Cluster Progress Status till March 2026, OFSDP-II								
Sl. No.	Name of the Division	Cluster Location	Product	Unit of Product	Selling Status			Number of persons benefitted
					Total Qnt. Sold		Total Sales	
					Pressed Khali/ Plates	Pressed Bowl	Amount in Rupees	
1	Baripada	Bartana	Sal Leaf	No	252047	22260	611234	365
2	Rairangpur	Bisoi		No	29080	185294	155715	1630
3	Karanjia	Kendumundi		No	108500	51200	358688	506
4	Dhenkanal	Lambodarpur	Cashew	Kg	6228.3		4395678	108
			Honey	Kg	233.3		222700	45
			Cashew shell	Kg	9905.7		93245	0
5	Jharsuguda	Kolabira	Lemon Grass Oil	Kg	420.66		492853	47
		Badimal			12		14400	15
Total Amount (In Rs.)							35,54,840	2526

Bulk processing, marketing and retailing of the products need a cluster mode of operation. Therefore, Multi Product Clusters for aggregation and value addition of the product is promoted so as to ensure a greater remunerative marketing and improved income for the forest fringe dwellers.



List of Products identified for Proposed Multi Product Clusters

Division	Range	Name of the Proposed Cluster Location	Name of the Major Product	Name of the other Products for Multi cluster
Athamallik	Athamallik	Tangianisha	Ground-nut	Mango, Bahada, Harida, Amla & Char
Baripada	Betonoti	Baidpur, Bartana	Sal Leaf	Honey, Harida, Bahada, Mahua seed (Tola), Bamboo
Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	Hi-tech Nursery,	Cashew	Mango, Sal Leaf, Black Gram, Jack Fruit & Honey
Subarnapur	Ullunda	Matupali	Hill Broom	Sal leaf
Karanjia	Thakurmunda	Kendumundi	Sal Leaf	Myrobalans, Pongamia seed, Lemon, Tamarind,
Rairangpur	Bisoi	Bartana	Sal Leaf	Pongamia seed, Honey, Harida, Bahada, Charaand others
Boudh	Boudh	Bamanda Central Nursery	NTFP & Pulses	Chara, Pongamia seed, Pulses, Tamarind
Sambalpur	Padiabaha, Dhama	Chamunda/Badmal/Bhimkhoj	Tamarind	Bahada, Harida, Mahua flower
Ghumsur (N)	Mujagada	Bhanja Nagar (Bana Vihar)	Pickle and rice bran oil	Cashew, Tamarind, Amla, Bahada, Harida
Ghumsur (S)	Buguda	Matajhari	Pulses	Cashew, Mango, Tamarind, Amla, Bahada, Harida
Sundargarh	Ujjalpur, Hemgiri	Hi tech Nursery, Ujjalpur	Non-Farm	Mango, Char, Harida, Bahada
Jharsuguda	Kolabira, Bagdihi	Borpain/Ganjudihi/Kukerama/Bhimjore	Lemongrass	Mango, Chilli, Harida, Bahada & Amla

6.10 Participation of VSSs/SHGs in the State Level Herbal Fair and Adivasi Mela at Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) participated in the 18th State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair- 2025 organized by State Medicinal Plant Board, Government of Odisha from 10th December 2025 to 16th December 2025. The exhibition-cum-sale counter in the 18th Kalinga Herbal Fair – 2025 had witnessed participation of seventeen Territorial Forest Divisions of OFSDP-II and AJY being implemented under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society. The OFSDS stalls were visited by Honourable Minister, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha, Shri Ganeshram Singh Khuntia and Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, HoFF, Govt of Odisha, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project participated in the inauguration of the Herbal Fair.

Major thrust of this fair was on herbal products, organic products and wellness activities, VSSs were chosen from the identified Herbal Cluster of OFSDS. Priority was given to introduce the products of Self-Help Groups operationalized under OFSDP-II and AJY herbal clusters. Total sale of products in the fair was Rs. 20.11 Lakhs. The OFSDS ensured display of project activities and achievements at the exhibition. As many as 13 SHGs strengthened under OFSDP-II & AJY had participated in the event. Total 42 members of 13 Self Help Groups representing the Vana Surakhya Samitis of OFSDP-II and AJY Divisions participated in the seven-day exhibition.

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) also participated in the Adivasi Mela 2025-26 from 26th January to 5th February 2025. The exhibition-cum-sale counter had witnessed participation of seventeen Territorial Forest Divisions of OFSDP-II and AJY being implemented under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society. In total 12 SHGs with 42 members had participated in the exhibition and sale of Rs. 25.59 Lakhs was generated for the participants. Such exhibition at State level is quite encouraging for the SHG and CIG members.

Innovations under OFSDP-II

7.1 Introduction

In the present globalized and dynamic world, every sector concerned with sustaining life and supporting the myriad functions of society—whether production, services, development, conservation, defence and security, entertainment, or any other domain—is compelled to continuously innovate and adopt novel strategies in order to remain relevant and effective for global communities. The forestry sector is no exception. Indeed, the series of innovative approaches introduced within the sector since the launch of the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Programme across the country in the early 1990s have been instrumental in bringing about very significant transformations in its functions. Today, the forest sector is widely recognized and appreciated for its transformative role in the sustainable utilization of forest resources, enhancement of livelihoods, and socio-economic development of poor forest-dependent and tribal communities, in addition to its conventional mandate of forest and wildlife conservation.

In modern days, both, the central as well as state governments have become proactive in evolving and amending the policies to be encouraging and supportive to the community centric and innovative approaches in the forest sector. Transformative innovations involving various stakeholders beyond the traditional domains of the sector are already in implementation. These innovations, particularly those involving participatory methods /strategies are important in leveraging the forest sector towards achieving a mutually sportive functional linkage between the three domains of forest eco system- biodiversity conservation, forest management & utilization and rural livelihood & community development. Not lagging behind, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS), has been spearheading several transformative innovative strategies while implementing many participatory interventions in the areas of sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, farm forestry, livelihood improvement, convergence aided community development through its flagship project OFSDP-II. However, for realizing effective results in terms of improved forest cover and equitable access of socio-economic benefits by the targeted community in the project, long standing partnerships among government, industry, academia, and NGOs are essential, alongside addressing cross-cutting issues and interventions.

The process of conceptualization, strategizing and implementation of transformative innovations, from the beginning of the project, has to counter and overcome the field-level hurdles such as unrealistic expectation from innovations, lack of sufficient empowerment of teams enforcing innovations, deficient cultural traits that support innovativeness and social change, lack of proper managerial support, difficulty in finding appropriate collaborators and viable process of collaboration, uncertainties during transition phases of growth and development and ineffective and proven tools of implementing innovations. These apart, the most challenging task that has to be handled by the project team is the 'winning community's confidence/faith on the innovative interventions' which is to be achieved through gradual rapport building and successfully implementing Entry Point Activities (EPAs). In order to win over these challenges, a clear conceptualization of innovative ideas among the project staff, formulating Standard Operating

Procedure (SOP) for each set of activities, meticulous planning, effective capacity building, strict schedule of implementation, rigorous concurrent monitoring & evaluation, continuity in progression from one milestone to another and regular documentation are the underscored project norms for the success in attaining the set objectives.

7.2 Revisiting Micro Plans

The comprehensive village-level micro plan, which is prepared by the community itself with the guidance of project staff serves as a blueprint for a long-term (ten years) village development plan, tailored to local needs and resources, with a focus on enhancing forest ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods. These micro plans, prepared by all 1211VSSs under OFSDP-II with active involvement of their members, particularly the women working groups and SHGs are aligned with the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Resolution of the Government of Odisha. These micro plans primarily addressed local challenges while implementing rural development programs for meeting the local needs. Under the project guidelines, the revision of micro plans for villages / VSS was to be taken up in the fifth year, i.e., after four years of implementation of first micro plan as discussed in Chapter 3.

7.2.1 Implementation Process:

Along with the preparatory work under OFSDP-II, the formulation of micro plan at VSS level also commenced in 2017-18. Subsequently, based on these micro plans, implementation of project activities in Batch-I VSSs also started in 2018-19. However, as per the project mandate, the revisit of micro plans have to be taken up at the end of fourth year of project implementation. Accordingly, the micro plan re-visit exercise in all the VSSs of Batch-I, Batch-II and Batch-III under all 12 Forest Divisions was taken up in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. It was a rigorous process, comprised of following stages:

- A 'Handbook on Micro Plan Revisit' containing detailed formats, in English and Odia was developed and distributed to all Divisions.
- A two-day Orientation training for all DMU Chiefs and SMSs was conducted at Bhubaneswar in collaboration with XIM University, Bhubaneswar.
- Subsequently, "Two-day training programs" were conducted at all DMU headquarters by PMU and PMC experts, to orient FMU and PNGO staff.
- The Re-visit of Micro Plan exercise was conducted with full community participation. It incorporated existing activities, changes occurred in the village since initial days of the project implementation and when the first Micro plan was drawn, challenges to be addressed, newly introduced 'Cross cutting components like Gender mainstreaming, Environmental & Social Management Framework and CMRV, future plan of action and annual plan & progress formats etc.
- Review and scrutiny of draft revised Micro Plans prepared by DMUs by the PMU and PMC experts and providing the feedback for incorporation in the final version of revised micro plan. This was followed by review meetings at each DMU to address discrepancies in the draft.
- After rigorously following these steps, the revised Micro Plans were approved in the VSS General Body meetings and subsequently in Palli Sabha/Gram Sabha meetings, ensuring FRA compliance.



7.2.2 Special Features of Micro Plan Revisit under OFSDP-II:

The revised micro plan, similar to the preparation of first micro plan, was carried out in a participatory manner, involving the VSS members in the entire exercise with the emphasis on the bottom-up planning approach. Uniquely, the revised micro plan included the cross-cutting project components like Gender Mainstreaming, Environmental & Social Management Safeguard Framework, and Community-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification. The revised exercise also gave lot of importance for the convergence activities taken up in collaboration with various government line departments, with the purpose of providing access to the government welfare schemes for the benefit of marginal and poorest of poor families.

Further, the micro plan re-visit process helped in empowering women and building community's capacity to take up income generating activities on their own, monitoring the progress in implementation of project activities and carry out mid-way corrections if needed. The exercise, while encouraging collective planning at grassroot level, also aims at strengthening the community institutions. Overall, it was an inclusive process ensuring community ownership.

7.2.3 Lessons Learnt/Benefits derived from Micro Plan Re-visit:

The micro plan revisit exercise facilitated the community to promptly address local needs and issues. Further, it ensured sustainability and self-reliance of the VSS members in the community-based planning process. It enabled the villagers to access the benefits of the various government's welfare schemes through convergence program. Most importantly, the re-visit of micro plan enabled the community to plan and execute the planned activities for the integrated village development, rather than adopting piece meal approach in community development. Revisiting Micro Plans in all 1211 VSSs covered under OFSDP-II had envisaged community involvement in developmental schemes and fulfilling rural aspirations.

7.3 Gender Mainstreaming

7.3.1 Concept of Gender Mainstreaming (GM)

The concept of Gender Mainstreaming (GM) has long been recognized as an important social-engineering tool for achieving gender equality and equity in the field of community development, particularly in developing economies, following democratic governance right from grassroot level to national level. All development and conservation projects, including those in the forestry and natural resource management sectors have been mandated to adopt gender mainstreaming strategies to ensure active gender participation in implementation process and equitable access to benefits by both men and women stakeholder. The key aspects of Gender Mainstreaming are as below.

i. Recognition of Gender as Key Stakeholders:

- Gender Mainstreaming (GM) envisages both men and women as important stakeholders in natural resource management and development sectors.
- It aims to promote equality and equity in gender participation, contribution, resource accessibility, and benefit sharing

ii. Inclusive Development Process:

- GM approach ensures equal participation of men and women in the development management process, including planning and decision making.
- It recognizes the differing needs and priorities of men and women during planning, implementation, and monitoring of community development interventions.

iii. Social and economic empowerment:

- Both, social and economic empowerment of women leads to the successful implementation of GM agenda in development projects.
- Gender empowerment, especially that of women envisages building their capacity to manage livelihood support activities, thus leading to attaining equal status with men in all spheres of rural life.

iv. Sensitization and mutual support:

- GM approach promotes the sensitization of both men and women towards their equal social responsibilities.
- It encourages mutually supportive roles for community betterment.

In the state of Odisha, gender mainstreaming remains one of the key domains of Joint Forest Management (JFM) which has been rigorously implemented since the early 1990s. The JFM Programme in Odisha serves as a model, demonstrating the positive impact of gender mainstreaming through active community engagement and empowerment initiatives. Gender mainstreaming in projects like OFSDP-II which is being implanted purely in JFM mode, serves as a tool for equal engagement of both men and women in project interventions and getting benefitted, resulting in more sustainable and inclusive development. Under the OFSDP-II, there has been a significant focus on gender mainstreaming. This includes ensuring women's participation in decision-making processes and equitable access to project benefits. The success achieved in gender mainstreaming in the project can largely be attributed to the highly responsive community-based organizations such as Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and Palli Sabhas. These community organizations have always encouraged active participation of women in most village development activities.

7.3.2 Gender Mainstreaming in OFSDP-II

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP-II) primarily aims to achieve sustainable forest management through active community participation and to provide diversified livelihood opportunities for the economic betterment of forest-dependent communities. In doing so, the project also emphasizes on gender mainstreaming so as to achieve equitable sharing of project benefits among men and women beneficiaries. Gender mainstreaming is a cross-cutting component, applicable to all major project components of OFSDP-II and at all levels of project management and implementation, right from VSS at grassroot level to Forest Management Units (FMU), Divisional Management Units (DMU), and the Project Management Unit (PMU) at state level.



7.3.2.1 Roles of Project Management Units in Gender Mainstreaming:

- i. **Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS):** The village-level organizations are central to implementing gender mainstreaming strategies with support from FMUs. Each VSS develops a Gender Action Plan (GAP) during the microplanning process and its re-visit, which is ultimately incorporated into the village-level micro plan.
- ii. **Forest Management Unit (FMU):** Provide technical support and facilitate the implementation of gender strategies at the village level.
- iii. **Divisional Management Unit (DMU) & Project Management Unit (PMU):** Develop and oversee the implementation of gender action plans at higher administrative levels. PMU, in consultation with DMUs and FMUs, formulates GAPs for the project management levels.

7.3.2.2 Components of Gender Mainstreaming:

The following are the major components of GM which are critical in implementing gender strategies by different units of project management, particularly at VSS level with community participation.

- i. **Gender Analysis:** Conducting studies to understand gender-specific issues, needs, and priorities.
- ii. **Gender-Segregated Data:** Collecting and utilizing data to design interventions that address specific needs of men and women.
- iii. **Equal Participation:** Ensuring that both men and women participate equally in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes.
- iv. **Gender Empowerment:** Capacity building for both men and women to maximize the benefits from project interventions and improve their living standards.

According to basic gender guidelines published under OFSDP-II, the Gender Action Plan aims to

- enhance participation of both genders in decision-making processes.
- reduce gender gaps in access to information, funds, services, and control over natural resources and
- ensure equitable distribution of project benefits.

The gender mainstreaming strategies under OFSDP-II focus on community and gender participation in forest protection, sustainable management, livelihood promotion, and community development activities. The ultimate goal is to empower communities, particularly women, ensuring their access to the necessary skills and opportunities for sustainable livelihood and other benefits from the project in proportion to their contributions in project implementation. Through these gender-oriented actions, OFSDP-II strives to achieve not only environmental sustainability but also social equity, thereby improving the overall well-being of forest-dependent communities.

7.3.3 Addressing Issues of Transgenders in Odisha

The OFSDP-II (Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II), under its cross-cutting component of Gender mainstreaming, recognizes the necessity of addressing issues beyond the traditional scope of gender equality and equity. It also tries to address the unique challenges faced by the transgender community, such as discrimination, social stigma, limited educational facilities, unemployment, lack



of shelter and supportive medical services, and issues related to marriage, property, and livelihood insecurity. In order to meet these challenges effectively, a collaborative effort with VSSs is planned by gathering reliable and relevant data on various aspects of the transgender community's livelihood, including their demographic, socio-psychological, educational, economic, and livelihood status. The project management recognized the importance of increasing the participation of the transgender community in special welfare schemes introduced by the Government of Odisha. The goal was to achieve economic and social empowerment for transgender individuals, enabling them to lead dignified lives with sustained income.

7.3.4 Progress made in Gender Mainstreaming under OFSDP-II

Gender mainstreaming as a crosscutting component of the OFSDP-II, it is integrated into every level of the project's structure. This includes the Project Management Unit (PMU), Division Management Unit (DMU), Field Management Unit (FMU), Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (PNGO), Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS), and Self Help Group (SHG). Gender mainstreaming strategy under OFSDP-II guides the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), with respect to all project components and management levels. Since the project's inception, the GAP has been actively implemented, reinforcing the project's commitment to gender equity and equality as fundamental aspects of sustainable community development.

Key components of the GAP included:

- i. **Capacity Building:** Conducting regular trainings and workshops to enhance and strengthen the knowledge and capabilities of all project stakeholders with respect to gender issues and their importance in forestry and community development.
- ii. **Equal Participation:** Ensuring that men and women are adequately and equally represented in decision-making process at all levels, from local VSS and SHG groups to higher management units.
- iii. **Economic Empowerment:** The GM strategy of the project also supported women's self-help groups with resources and opportunities so as to engage them successfully in income-generating activities, thereby boosting their economic independence and status within the community.
- iv. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing mechanisms to monitor the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities and evaluate their impact, ensuring continuous improvement and accountability.

The integration of gender mainstreaming into the OFSDP-II underscores the project's inclusive approach to sustainable forestry development, recognizing that gender participation is crucial for the success and sustainability of community development initiatives.

Specifically, the progress made with respect to gender mainstreaming under the project during the year 2025-26 has been detailed below:

7.3.4.1 Gender Mainstreaming at VSS Level through Micro Plan Revisit

The micro plans prepared by the VSSs under OFSDP-II are playing a crucial role in ensuring gender balance and equity in development interventions within the community. The contribution of the Women Working Group (WWG) has played a key role in capturing gender concerns and incorporating them into the Gender Action Plan (GAP) which is an important component of the micro plan document. By



focusing on reducing work-drudgery and increasing women's participation in community institutions and governance, the GAP appears to address the specific needs of women effectively.

The re-visit of micro plans undertaken in all the VSSs under OFSDP-II was an effort on the part of the project to keep improving and refining the micro plans with a better gender perspective. Revising the plans with a focus on gender mainstreaming with incorporating the needs and priorities of both, men and women reflected the project's commitment in ensuring inclusivity. The approval of the revised micro plans by the General Body of all VSSs and subsequently by the respective Gram Sabha / Palli Sabha underscored the democratic and participatory nature of the process, ensuring community's ownership and commitment of the gender-responsive interventions outlined in the plans. Overall, undoubtedly, micro plans keep serving as an effective tool for promoting gender equality and equity within the community development framework.

7.3.4.2 Incorporation of Gender Related Formats in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision

A comprehensive 'Framework for VSS level assessment of micro plan with reference to Gender Mainstreaming and Development under OFSDP-II was developed and incorporated in the Micro plan revision document which was used by all the batches of VSSs for micro plan re-visit exercise. In addition, few more gender related formats were also prepared by the Project Management Unit (PMU) in collaboration with Project Management Consultants (PMC) and their English and Odia versions were included in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision. These formats were helpful in eliciting exhaustive gender-segregated data and to formulate and incorporate gender action plan in the revised micro plan of each VSS. The following gender related formats were included in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision which was used in the Batch-II VSSs:

- i. Gender involvement in daily routine works
- ii. Gender based participation in planning process, access and control over resources.
- iii. Gender Resource Map
- iv. Format for compilation of gender related responses at VSS level
- v. Assessment of budget allocation and expenditure in micro plan as per Gender Action Plan

These gender-related formats incorporated into the handbook for micro plan revision facilitated to gain better understanding of how gender dynamics and gender mainstreaming process intersect with community development initiatives. This approach had potentially led to more effective and sustainable outcomes by addressing the specific challenges and opportunities faced by women and men within the community.

7.3.4.3 Capacity Building in Gender Mainstreaming

Since the launch of the project, series of Orientation, awareness and skill upgradation training programmes related to gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, gender budgeting, implementation of gender action plans, using different gender related formats included in the Handbook of Micro Plan Re-visit were conducted for the DMU, FMU staff as well as for the community members at VSS level. These training programmes were conducted by the trained staff of DMU/PMC /FMU/PNGOs.

7.3.4.4 Review of Revised Micro Plans Prepared by DMUs

Five to six samples of revised micro plans prepared by the VSSs of each DMU were extensively reviewed and detailed feedback was given by the PMC experts. The feedback reports were prepared by the experts with respect to all sections of revised micro plan, including the Gender mainstreaming and shared with respective DMU /FMU /PNGO staff for carrying out the corrections / modification suggested in the Revised micro plans. While providing the feedback, the PMC experts also conducted review meetings in DMU headquarters with the presence of DMU Chiefs, SMSs, Batch-III FMU Coordinators, PNGO staff and VSS secretaries. These review meetings helped to clarify all doubts /misunderstandings raised by DMU and field staff with respect to different chapters of revised micro plans, particularly those related to cross cutting components like gender mainstreaming and properly carry out the corrections in the drafts of revised micro plans.

7.3.4.5 Analysis of Gender Related Response from VSSs Captured through Revised Micro Plans

The data /information in terms of current status of gender mainstreaming at VSS level were captured through the Gender Assessment Format included in the Handbook of Micro Plan Revision. The format contained 11 broad categories of gender mainstreaming actions envisaged at VSS level. Each of these gender-related actions were assessed through well-defined criteria measured through 37 specific questions related to gender responses expected to be complied at VSS level.

Summary of Responses Obtained from VSSs on GM Compliance / Actions towards GM Related actions

Percentage of VSSs given positive (yes) response to GM questions / actions (Extent of compliance of prescribed GM parameters)							
100% i.e 'Yes' response to all 37 questions	97.30% i.e 'Yes' to 36 questions & 'No' to one question	94.59% i.e 'Yes' to 35 questions & 'No' to 02 questions	91.89% i.e 'Yes' to 34 questions & 'No' to 03 questions	89.19% i.e 'Yes' to 33 questions & 'No' to 04 questions	86.49% i.e 'Yes' to 32 questions & 'No' to 05 questions	83.78% i.e 'Yes' to 31 questions, & 'No' to 06 questions	81.08% i.e 'Yes' to 30 questions, & 'No' to 07 questions
52.34%	19.28%	1.93%	13.77%	7.44%	4.68%	0.28%	0.28%

Overall Inference derived from the analysis of data on GM compliance at VSS level:

The analysis / interpretation of gender related data obtained through Micro Plan revisit exercise indicate the following trend with respect to gender mainstreaming at VSS level under the project:

- All the VSSs under OFSDP-II exhibited highly positive trend as far as fulfilling the actions required for gender mainstreaming. The VSSs were 80% to 100% 'Gender Responsive', as they comply with most of the gender mainstreaming actions envisaged at VSS level.
- Just more than half (53.00%) of total VSSs had fully complied with the GM related actions, reflected through the positive responses to all 37 GM related questions in the format.

- iii. Rest of the VSSs (47.00 %) had complied between 80% and 97% of GM related actions, reflecting positive responses to the GM related questions.
- iv. Following table reveals following GM specific actions have not been fully complied at VSS level as opined by nearly 30% of VSSs members.

Summary of Non-Compliance of Gender responses by VSSs

Sl. No.	List of GM related actions which were not fully Complied with at VSS level (Reflected by 'Negative' (No) response given by VSS members wrt these GM actions during Micro Plan re-visit exercise)
i	The Annual Action Plans do not have a separate / exclusive budget allotted for implementing the gender action plans
ii	Gender budget provision is not equivalent to the mandated 5% of micro plan budget
iii	Members of Women Working Group (WWG) do not fully monitor the implementation GAP
iv	The micro plan does not give indicative number of gender awareness trainings to be organized for VSS members (men & women)
v	The benefits out of IGAs / livelihood interventions are not always equitably shared among men and women involved
vi	The men and women stakeholders do not have a clearly defined role in various activities related to product Clusters
vii	Sometimes equal wages are not paid to men and women engaged in forest management works (JFM & Non-JFM modes)
viii	Men and women VSS members do not always have equal access to community / common resources / facilities
ix	Grievance redressal mechanism is not very effective in addressing and redressing the grievances of VSS members on use of community resources
x	Many VSSs/EDCs did not continue with the women Animators after two years based on satisfactory performance

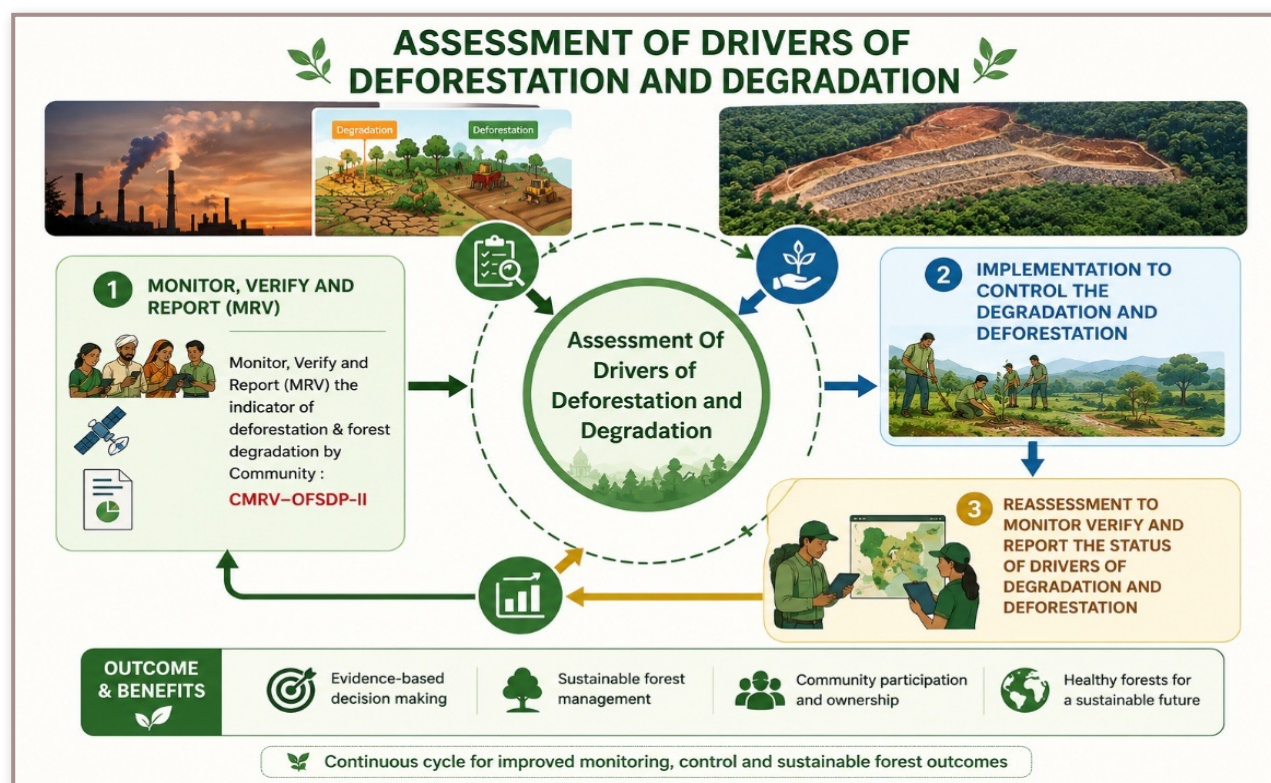
In overall assessment, all the VSSs of 12 DMUs showed a very high-level positive response towards fulfilling actions related to gender mainstreaming and thus providing a positive trend of equal as well as equitable gender participation in community developmental and forest management activities as envisaged in their respective micro plans. It was also observed that the Revised micro plans prepared under the project had further strengthened this positive trend in gender mainstreaming at community level.

7.4 Community based Monitoring, Reporting & verification (CMRV) and REDD + readiness

During 2025-26, the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Programme – Phase II (OFSDP-II) continued to strengthen climate change mitigation initiatives through the promotion of Community-Based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV) systems. The Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) process emerged as an essential tool for assessing and documenting climate change mitigation outcomes within the forestry sector.

The programme adopted the principles of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus), which is a globally recognized framework for promoting sustainable forest management, conservation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. With the growing emphasis on voluntary climate action and carbon markets, MRV and emission reduction processes have become increasingly integrated components of climate change mitigation strategies.

Under OFSDP-II, community participation was positioned at the centre of the MRV process, marking an important step forward in participatory climate governance. The project document specifically emphasizes Community-Based MRV as an innovative mechanism for involving local communities in monitoring forest resources, reporting changes in forest conditions, and verifying carbon enhancement activities at the field level. The assessment of drivers of deforestation and degradation by the community is one of the key steps in CMRV.



Forests play a critical role in climate regulation through carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem stabilization. Recognizing this, OFSDP-II promoted community engagement in climate mitigation activities by strengthening local capacities, encouraging sustainable forest management practices, and enhancing awareness regarding carbon benefits and ecosystem services. The integration of community institutions into MRV processes also contributed to improved transparency, accountability, and ownership of climate-related interventions at the grassroots level.

The initiatives undertaken during the year laid the foundation for future climate financing opportunities and reinforced the role of forest-dependent communities as key stakeholders in achieving long-term climate resilience and sustainable forest management objectives in Odisha



7.4.1 Promotion of REDD+ Framework under OFSDP-II

During 2025–26, the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Programme – Phase II (OFSDP-II) continued to promote the principles and approaches of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus) as an important component of climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management. REDD+ is a globally recognized mechanism aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, while simultaneously promoting forest conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks through activities such as afforestation and reforestation.

The programme recognized that deforestation and forest degradation are driven by multiple factors. In this context, REDD+ provides a framework through which forest-rich regions can contribute to global climate action while securing ecological and livelihood benefits at the local level.

During the year 2025–26, awareness and capacity-building initiatives were undertaken to familiarize stakeholders with the concepts of carbon sequestration, sustainable forest management, and climate finance mechanisms associated with REDD+. The programme also highlighted various financing approaches linked to REDD+, including results-based payments, market-based mechanisms such as carbon credit trading, and non-market-based support through grants and public financing.

A key focus area of the programme was the establishment of robust systems for measuring, monitoring, and reporting carbon sequestration outcomes arising from project interventions. These efforts are expected to support future performance-based climate financing opportunities and strengthen evidence-based forest management practices.

The critical role of community institution of Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and forest-dependent households in protecting and managing forest resources. By integrating these stakeholders into climate mitigation initiatives, OFSDP-II aimed to create opportunities for community participation, livelihood enhancement, skill development, and potential performance-based incentives linked to forest conservation outcomes.

Overall, the REDD+ related initiatives contributed towards strengthening climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable forest governance while reinforcing the role of local communities as key partners in achieving long-term environmental and developmental objectives in Odisha.

7.4.2 The various ways of climate change mechanisms are

Emission Reduction: The primary objective is to minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated by deforestation and forest degradation.

- i. **Forest Conservation:** REDD+ emphasizes the conservation of existing forest carbon stocks, aiming to preserve critical carbon sinks.
- ii. **Sustainable Forest Management:** The initiative supports the adoption of sustainable forest management practices to ensure long-term ecological and economic viability.

- iii. **Carbon Stock Enhancement:** REDD+ promotes activities such as reforestation and afforestation to increase forest carbon stocks and enhance ecosystem resilience.

As part of the process, communities assessed and ranked their respective VSS areas based on predefined indicators and scores related to various degradation drivers such as forest fires, grazing pressure, illegal felling, encroachment, and other anthropogenic disturbances. The evaluation process encouraged greater community awareness, accountability, and participation in sustainable forest management practices.

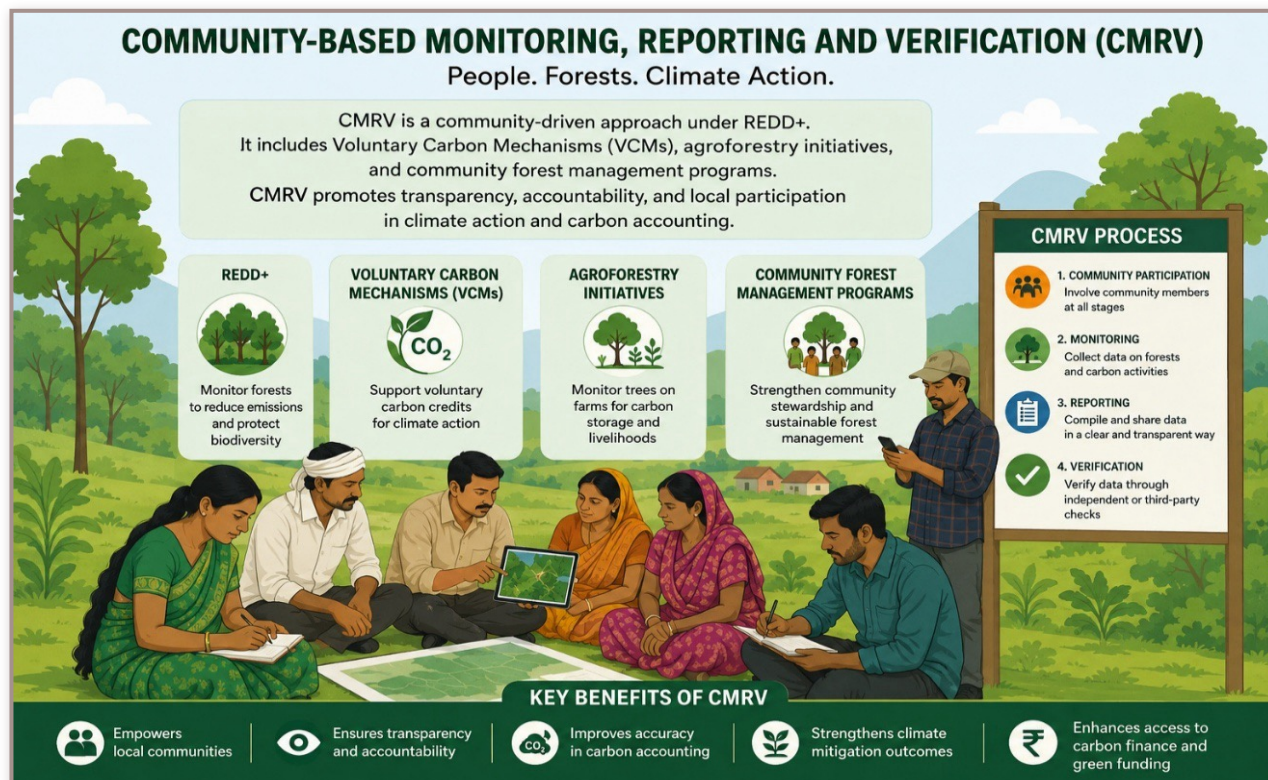
Based on the scores obtained, VSSs were categorized through a special colour-coding system, which served as an easy and transparent mechanism for identifying the condition and performance of forest areas under community management.

The colour-coded ranking system also provided a basis for comparative assessment, targeted interventions, and performance tracking over time. The introduction of the CMRV system under OFSDP-II marked an important step towards participatory climate governance by integrating local knowledge and community stewardship into forest monitoring and climate mitigation efforts. Community-Based MRV refers to a participatory system where community Members are trained and empowered to collect, manage, and report data on carbon stocks, forest cover changes, and other relevant indicators in carbon mitigation projects (e.g., REDD+, afforestation, agroforestry and voluntary mechanism of Carbon mitigation like VERRA, Gold Standard, Plan VIVO etc.).

The Community-Based MRV is a vital tool that not only improves the effectiveness of carbon mitigation efforts but also ensures that local communities are partners in climate action, not just beneficiaries.

7.4.3 Advantages

- The Widely used in REDD+, Voluntary Carbon Mechanisms (VCMs), agroforestry, and community forest management programmes.
- Supports climate change mitigation through community participation.
- Promotes participatory monitoring and transparent carbon accounting.
- Helps improve monitoring, reporting, and verification of forest carbon activities.
- Encourages sustainable forest management practices.
- Strengthens community involvement in climate action initiatives.
- Supported by international organizations
- Integrated into various national forest monitoring systems for better environmental governance.



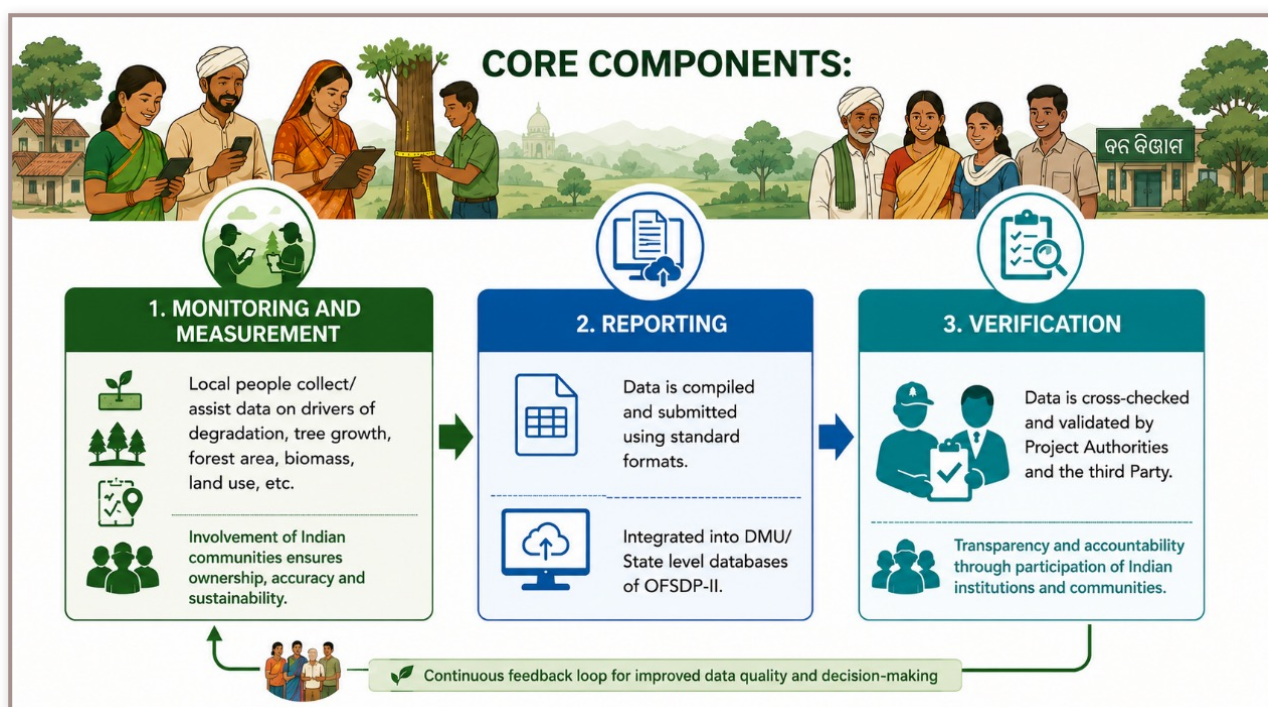
Under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), the Community-Based Monitoring and Reporting and Verification (CMRV) approach is implemented in 1,211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs). These committees, comprising forest-dependent community members, play a vital role in:

- Sustainable Forest Management (SFM):** Carrying out activities that ensure responsible use and long-term conservation of forest resources.
- Livelihood Enhancement:** Promoting alternative income-generating activities for forest fringe communities to reduce reliance on forest ecosystems.
- Capacity Building:** Equipping stakeholders, including community members, with the skills and knowledge needed to actively engage in and manage CMRV processes.

7.4.4 VSS-Based Community Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV)

- During 2025–26, the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Programme – Phase II (OFSDP-II) strengthened the implementation of VSS-based Community Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV) systems as part of its sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation initiatives.
- The approach was designed to ensure active participation of local communities in identifying, monitoring, and mitigating the drivers of forest degradation and deforestation.
- The implementation of the CMRV framework involved a series of participatory steps undertaken at the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) level.
- Drivers Identified & Ranked:** Forest degradation drivers were identified with participation of forest fringe communities under OFSDP-II and ranked based on their impact on forest resources. Suitable mitigation measures were then proposed.

- **Mitigation Strategies Developed:** Community-based mitigation strategies were prepared through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) interventions such as forest protection, fire prevention, controlled grazing, assisted natural regeneration, plantations, and awareness activities.
- **Regular Monitoring System:** An annual monitoring system was established to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures and track improvements in forest condition and climate mitigation outcomes.
- **Community Participation Strengthened:** Local communities were actively involved in monitoring, reporting, and forest management, helping improve livelihoods, resilience, and inclusive governance.
- **CMRV Framework Established:** Identification of drivers, mitigation planning, monitoring, reporting, and verification formed the core components of the CMRV framework and were integrated into revised Micro Plans.
- **Capacity Building Conducted:** Training programmes on CMRV were organized at PMU, DMU, and FMU levels. Officials, Subject Matter Specialists, and PNGOs were trained as master trainers for VSS-level awareness and implementation.
- **Guidelines & Handbook Prepared:** A dedicated CMRV chapter and operational guidelines were included in the Micro Plan Revisit Handbook to support systematic field-level implementation of climate mitigation and participatory forest monitoring.



7.4.5 Roles and Responsibilities of VSS Executive Committee in CMRV

The VSS Executive Committee played an important role in implementing Community-Based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV) at the village level under OFSDP-II. Their major responsibilities included identification and ranking of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation using a rating scale of High, Moderate, and Low. The committees also assessed the impact of these drivers on forest resources and carried out annual monitoring of forest conditions and mitigation measures.

At the VSS level, Annual Performance Report Cards were prepared using a colour-coded system of green, yellow, and red categories to reflect the performance of forest management interventions. Standardized formats introduced during the Micro Plan revisit were used for monitoring and assessment. A numerical scoring system with a maximum score of 50 was adopted to evaluate and rank VSS performance.

Through these activities, the VSS Executive Committees promoted a transparent, accountable, and performance-based approach to sustainable forest management. They also strengthened the targeting of interventions and enhanced opportunities to access climate finance under REDD+ and voluntary carbon market mechanisms.

Based on the above ranking at VSS level the data of all VSS were shared by the VSS to Field Management Units.



7.4.6 Key highlights of the VSS CMRV results

- VSS ratings through CMRV tools in 2025–26 show improved sustainability and performance.
- Community participation in VSS activities has increased.

	High: (marks obtained = 45 and above) use green color code. The VSS is performing well to address the drivers of degradation can be an example for other VSS
	Moderate: (marks obtained between 40 to 44) Use Yellow Color code. The VSS is not performing satisfactorily. There is scope for improving the rating. Analysis is to be made for the cause of average performance and coarse correction is to be made
	Low: (Marks Obtained less than less than 40 Marks) Use Red Color code. The VSS is not performing well. Poor Performance. Needs immediate attention, Situation analysis is to be made, and immediate course correction is to be taken up. Call GB / EC to rectify the management and fact finding and corrections.

- Monitoring and reporting practices have improved.
- Greater transparency has been achieved in the evaluation process.
- Institutional functioning at the village level has been strengthened.
- Continued evaluation beyond 2025–26 will ensure the long-term sustainability of the CMRV system.
- The division-wise analysis of VSS performance, along with graphical representations, is presented below to illustrate the progress and comparative across different divisions.
- The assessment system has gained wider acceptance among stakeholders.

Divisions	Total VSS	B1 VSS	Batch-1, 1st Cycle				Batch- 1, 2nd Cycle			
			VSS Reported	Green	Yellow	Red	VSS Reported	Green	Yellow	Red
Athamalik	75	20	20	19	1		20	17	3	
Baripada	135	46	46	32	13	1	46	36	9	1
Boudh	71	20	20	17	3		20	20		
Dhenkanal	150	25	25	11	13	1	25	8	16	1
Ghumsur N	100	25	25	1	23	1	25	17	8	
Ghumsur S	65	20	20	16	4		20	19	1	
Jharsuguda	88	29	29	9	18	2	29	4	25	
Karanja	80	20	20		20		20	5	15	
Rairangpur	107	40	40	9	31		40	24	16	
Sambalpur	100	55	55	29	26		55	25	17	13
Subarnapur	84	25	25	25			25	6	19	
Sundargarh	156	30	30	20	10		30	12	17	1
Grand Total	1211	355	355	188	162	5	355	193	146	16

Divisions	Total VSS	B2 VSS	Batch-2,1st Cycle				Batch-2,2nd Cycle			
			VSS Reported	Green	Yellow	Red	VSS Reported	Green	Yellow	Red
Athamalik	75	25	25	17	7	1	25	1	10	14
Baripada	135	70	70	43	22	5	70	60	10	
Boudh	71	20	20	20			20	11	9	
Dhenkanal	150	27	27	23	4		27	1	13	13
Ghumsur N	100	24	24	24			24	24		
Ghumsur S	65	20	20	1	18	1	20	1	17	2
Jharsuguda	88	51	51	42	9		51	27	24	
Karanja	80	20	20	11	9		20	15	5	
Rairangpur	107	60	60	23	37		60	28	32	
Sambalpur	100	20	20		19	1	20	1	19	
Subarnapur	84	25	24	24			24	8	15	1
Sundargarh	156	60	60	58	2		60	59	1	
Grand Total	1211	422	421	286	127	8	421	236	155	30

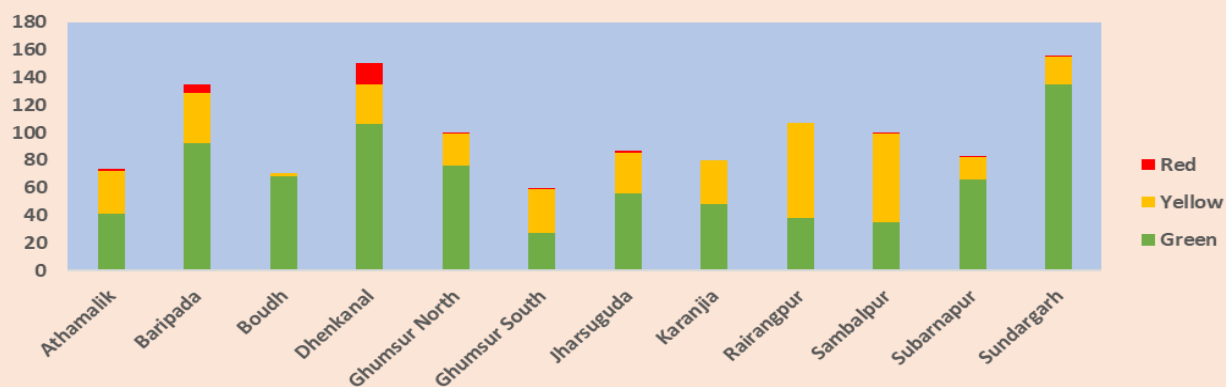
Divisions	Total VSS	B3 VSS	Batch-3, 1st Cycle				Batch-3,2nd Cycle			
			VSS Reported	Green	Yellow	Red	VSS Reported	Green	Yellow	Red
Athamalik	75	30	29	5	23	1	0			
Baripada	135	19	19	17	2		19	19		
Boudh	71	23	23	23			23	10	13	
Dhenkanal	150	52	52	49	3		52	48	4	
Ghumsur N	100	25	25	25			21	21		
Ghumsur S	65	20	20	10	10		0			
Jharsuguda	88	5	5	3	2		3	2	1	



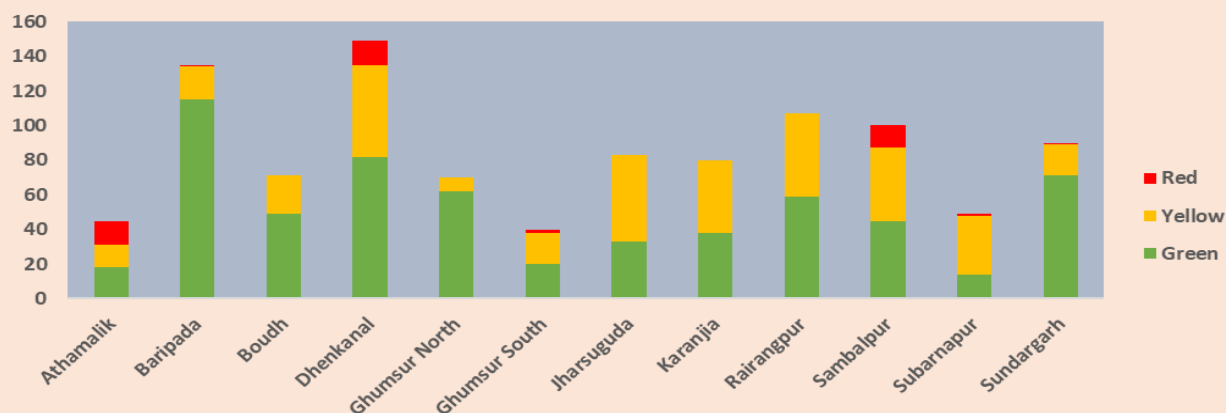
Karanjaia	80	20	20	20			20	2	18	
Rairangpur	107	7	7	6	1		7	7		
Sambalpur	100	25	25	6	19		25	19	6	
Subarnapur	84	25	25	8	16	1	0			
Sundargarh	156	30	30	30			0			
Grand Total	1211	281	280	202	76	2	170	128	42	0

Divisions	Total VSS	B4 VSS	Batch 4 , 1st Cycle				Batch 4, 2nd cycle			
			VSS Reported	Green	Yellow	Red	VSS Reported	Green	Yellow	Red
Athamalik	75									
Baripada	135									
Boudh	71	8	8	8			8	8		
Dhenkanal	150	46	46	23	9	14	45	25	20	
Ghumsur N	100	26	26	26						
Ghumsur S	65	5	0							
Jharsuguda	88	3	2	2						
Karanjaia	80	20	20	17	3		20	16	4	
Rairangpur	107									
Sambalpur	100									
Subarnapur	84	9	9	9						
Sundargarh	156	36	36	27	8	1				
Grand Total	1211	153	147	112	20	15	73	49	24	0

CMRV 1st Cycle (All batches) Status



CMRV 2nd Cycle (All batches) Status



7.4.7 Self Help Group (SHG) Based CMRV

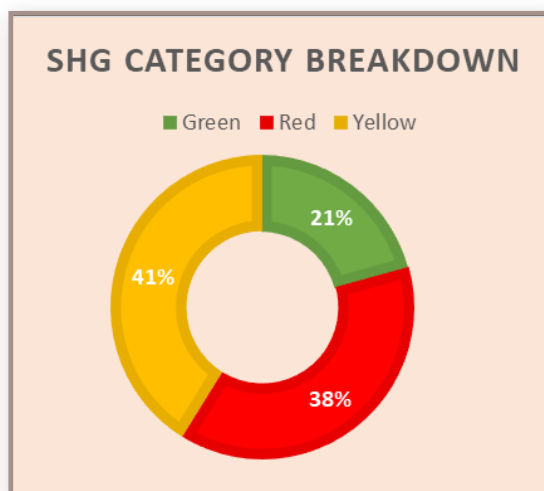
To reduce the dependence on forest and augment the income of fringe forest communities, the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are mobilized at VSS level. This is an important component for improving the SFM by reducing the dependence on Forests in forest fringe villages.

The rating in terms of CMRV performance is done at each SHG level through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with the following parameters:

- Regular meetings of SHGs
- Membership Status of SHGs (BPL)
- Regular record Keeping (Minutes register, Pass Book etc.as per the prescribed list)
- Internal savings have started, and the contributions are made to SHG fund
- Involvement of Members in IGAs
- Training on Sustainable Practices for IGA
- Loan Availability from Revolving Fund
- Repayment of loan taken from Revolving Fund
- Default in Repayment of Loan taken from other Sources
- Any Other Item with the approval of SHG for scoring. (This will strengthen the Capacity of SHG for self-evaluation)
- The above criteria are numerically rated and scored based on the
- scoring the SHGs would be rated with color coding as following

	Score: Total: Maximum Marks 21 High = (marks obtained = 16 and above) use green color (performed better in IGA try to score more, can be used as an example for other SHGs)
	Moderate = (marks Obtained 12 to 16 Use Yellow Color): Efforts to improve the rating in next monitoring be analyzing and resolving the problem)
	Low = (Marks Obtained less than 12 Marks use color code red) Poor Performance Needs in depth analysis to study the main cause of poor performance

Comprehensive Scoring of All SHGs in 12 DMUs				
Division	Green	Yellow	Red	Grand Total
Athamalik	57	160	246	463
Baripada	84	13	686	783
Boudh	39	82	126	247
Dhenkanal	42	252	34	328
Ghumsur North	182	176	24	382
Ghumsur South	40	188	17	245
Jharsuguda	37	492	513	1042
Karanjia	63	131	167	361
Rairangpur	166	241	174	581
Sambalpur	71	116	311	498
Subarnapur	175	351	27	553
Sundargarh	381	455	138	974
Grand Total	1337	2657	2463	6457



	Score: Total: Maximum Marks 32 High (marks obtained = 32 and above) use green color code. The EDC is performing well to address the drivers of degradation can be an example for other EDC
	Moderate = (marks obtained between 28 to 31) Use Yellow Color code. The EDC is not performing satisfactorily. There is scope for improving the rating. Analysis is to be made for the cause of average performance and coarse correction is to be made.
	Low = (Marks Obtained less than less than 28 Marks) Use Red Color code. The EDC is not performing well. Poor Performance. Needs immediate attention, Situation analysis is to be made, and immediate course correction is to be taken up. Call GB /EC to rectify the management and fact finding and corrections.

7.4.8 CMRV at EDC Level

The CMRV process was extended to 10 EDCs in Bamra Wildlife Sanctuary under the Satoyama Initiative. Capacity-building programmes on the CMRV process were organised at Sambalpur for stakeholders to strengthen their understanding and effective implementation of the process. The CMRV scoring framework has also been incorporated into the Micro plan revision process, as detailed below.

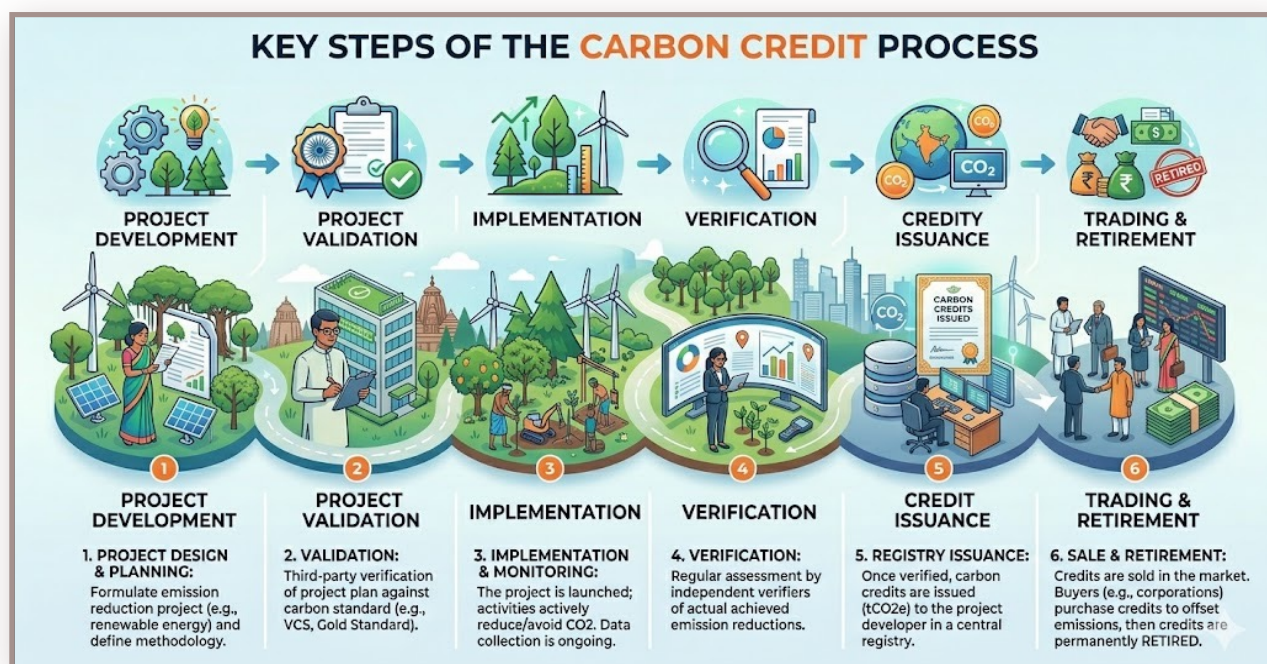
7.4.9 Community Based Climate Financing in OFSDP-II

OFSDP-II has taken proactive steps to engage with Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCMs) and explore voluntary carbon financing mechanisms. This study aims to institutionalize a transparent and inclusive Community-Based Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (CMRV) system, ensuring forest communities actively participate in carbon accounting.

By quantifying local contributions to forest conservation and enhancement, this initiative offers significant benefits:

- **Incentivizing Stewardship:** Stakeholders become eligible for carbon-based incentives, reinforcing their long-term commitment to sustainable practices.

- **Empowering Communities:** Local capacities in climate governance are strengthened through direct involvement in the carbon accounting process.
- **Scaling Global Impact:** The project establishes a scalable, replicable model that integrates community-led forest management with international climate finance mechanisms.



Ultimately, these combined efforts drive a dual benefit: enhancing local livelihoods while building enduring climate resilience

- Forests absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) and store carbon in trees, roots, soil, and biomass, acting as major carbon sinks.
- Forest conservation helps prevent the release of stored carbon and reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Avoided deforestation is one of the most cost-effective climate change mitigation measures.
- Forests regulate temperature, rainfall, humidity, and the hydrological cycle through evapotranspiration.
- Healthy forests help stabilize local and global climate systems.
- Forest degradation, fires, pests, and rising temperatures can release stored carbon back into the atmosphere.
- Forests reduce the impact of floods, droughts, landslides, and other extreme weather events.
- Forest ecosystems support biodiversity and improve ecological resilience to climate change.
- Reforestation, afforestation, sustainable forest management, and REDD+ are important forest-based climate mitigation strategies.

7.4.9.1 Forest carbon accounting is mainly based on five carbon pools

- Above-ground biomass
- Below-ground biomass
- Dead wood
- Litter
- Soil organic carbon

These five carbon pools are vital for forest carbon assessments, particularly under climate change mitigation frameworks like REDD+ and national greenhouse gas inventories.

Carbon financing through Sustainable Forest Management is a way to fund low-carbon projects by assigning a financial value to carbon emissions. This approach allows entities to offset their own emissions by purchasing carbon credits generated from sustainably managed forests. Each credit signifies a verified reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. By buying these credits, companies can support emission reduction efforts and promote sustainable forestry, all while continuing their regular operations.

Carbon credits are permits or certificates that represent the reduction or removal of one metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) or its equivalent in other greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere.

Purpose and Function:

- Designed as a market-based mechanism to incentivize emission reductions.
- Organizations or countries can purchase carbon credits to offset their own emissions, allowing them to meet regulatory or voluntary climate goals.

Types of Carbon Credits:

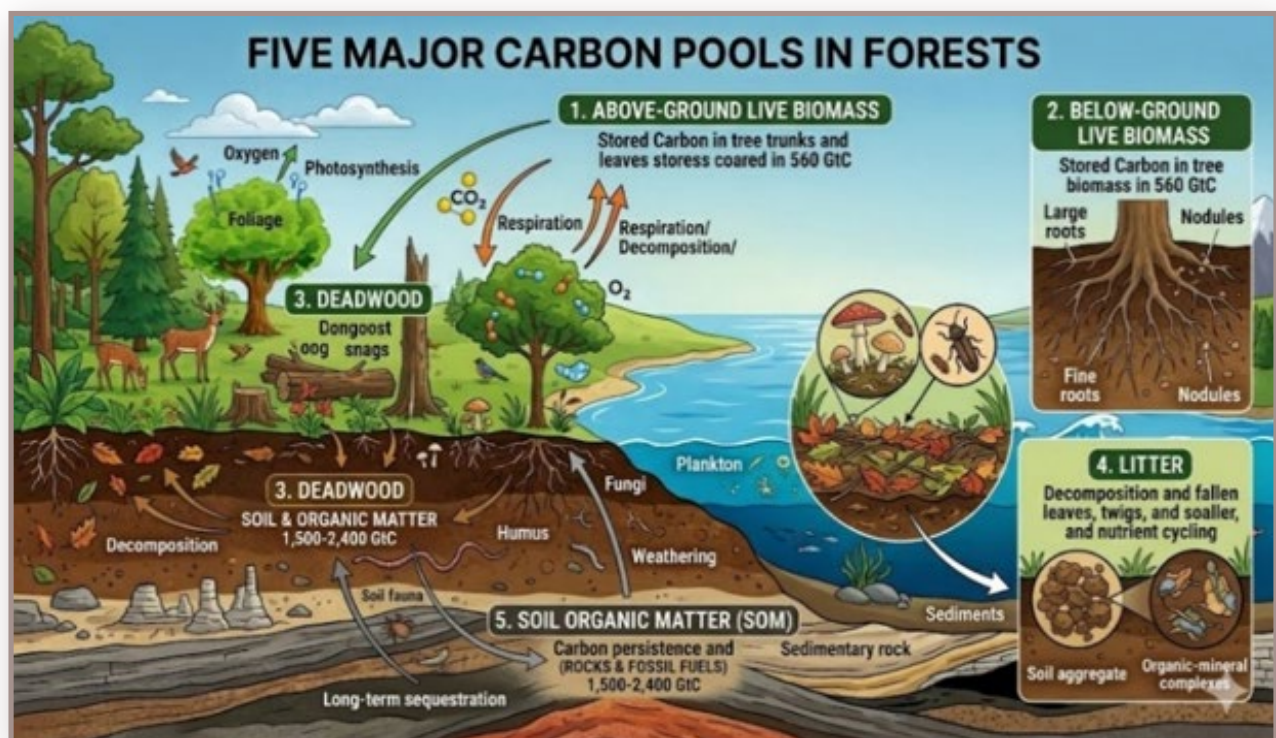
1. Compliance Carbon Credits:

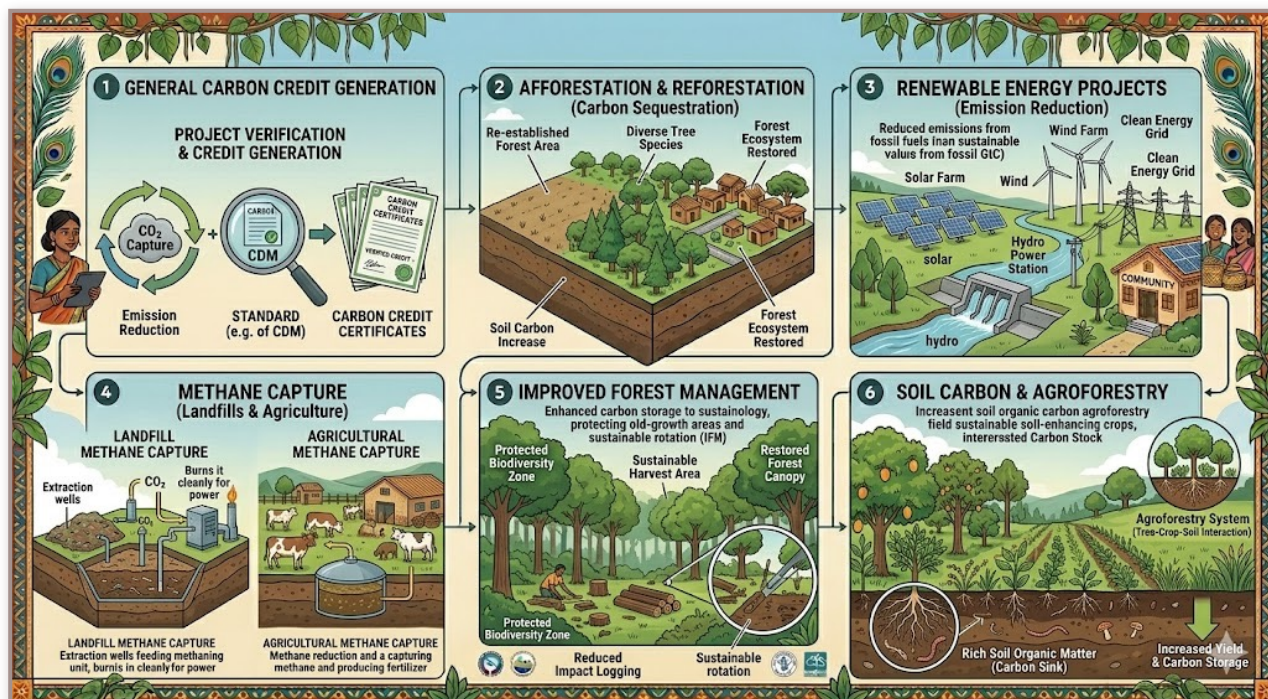
- Used by entities under mandatory emission reduction schemes

2. Voluntary Carbon Credits:

- Purchased by companies or individuals aiming to voluntarily offset their emissions or enhance sustainability profiles.
- OFSDP-II attempted the Voluntary carbon Mechanism with VERRA registry

Carbon credits are generated through verified projects that reduce or remove emissions illustrated below





7.4.9.2 OFSDS endeavored in exploring carbon credits for the community as beneficiary through farm forestry

In Voluntary Carbon Mechanism the registry for the feasibility study was chosen through VERRA: The Voluntary Carbon Mechanism (VCM) under Verra, primarily through its Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) program, provides a framework for generating and trading carbon credits from forestry and land use projects. Projects that aim to reduce emissions or enhance carbon sequestration in the forestry sector must meet specific criteria to be eligible under Verra. Here are the key criteria for forestry projects under the Voluntary Carbon Mechanism in Verra:

7.4.9.3 Based on the feasibility study the area selected for study and found feasible, it was found out that the agroforestry area are eligible for Carbon Project and the study was further upscale in 2025 -26 . The feasibility study involved the Land Use and Land Cover analysis.

The Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) analysis helps to check if an area is eligible for carbon credits as of a specific project date (for example, 2021). The Land use and land Cover analysis was based on the following criteria.

- There are three main criteria adopted in the study in OFSDP-II:
 1. The natural vegetation density should be less than 10%. (In case)
 2. Land use should not have changed over time.
 3. No deforestation should have taken place.

If there is a water body or built-up area within the plot, that area should be excluded from the analysis. Based on the eligibility and the present status of the survival the summary of the Farm Forestry area that eligible for ARR methodology in 2025-26.

Remote sensing (satellite imagery) is used to accurately monitor changes in land use and vegetation. The analysis depends on the availability of satellite images, whatever is available can be used. Some agencies also use Google Earth images, while in OFSDP-II, LISS IV images were used. For eligibility, the project area must have been non-forested (less than 10% vegetation density) for at least 10 years before the project start date, as shown by old satellite images.

▪ **Approaches to Measure the Tree biomass**

There are two main methods for doing this:

- **Area-based approach:** Uses satellite images to compare vegetation or biomass changes between the project area and nearby control areas. (Used in OFSDP-II)
- **Census-based approach:** Suitable for small projects like urban tree planting and depends on counting all planted trees. (Not used in OFSDP-II)

Abstract information on no. of beneficiary and area (ha) of Farm Forestry selcted for Carbon Credit Project								
Division	2021-22-23		2024-2025		2025-2026		Total Beneficiary	Total Area (ha)
	Beneficiary	Area ha	Beneficiary	Area ha	Beneficiary	Area ha		
Athmallik	104	19.32	6	3.44			110	22.75
Baripada	146	30.26			34	11.13	180	41.39
Boudh	82	54.98	55	1.7	42	1.67	179	58.36
Dhenkanal	227	43.52	18	9.88			245	53.40
Ghumsur South	101	19.93	13	6.27			114	26.19
Ghumsure North	307	35.51	160	59.75	81	20.34	548	115.60
Jharsuguda	273	62.49	340	84.78	104	29.76	717	177.03
Karanja	219	40.14	157	62.13			376	102.27
Rairangpur	96	19.96	180	68.32			276	88.28
Sambalpur	39	15.61	393	127.94	95	30.02	527	173.57
Subarnapur	112	45.22	113	72.21	60	32.02	285	149.44
Sundargarh	414	92.73					414	92.73
Grand Total	2120	479.67	1435	496.42	416	124.94	3971	1101.01

During 2025-26 under the initiative of OFSDS for the accrual and trading of carbon credits in the Farm Forestry Project, a third-party validation process was undertaken. The exercise was facilitated by the Project Management Unit (PMU), with support from the Project Management Consultant (PMC) and technical guidance from Ms. Kosher Climate India Pvt. Ltd. The validation was an important milestone, ensuring compliance with international standards for carbon finance projects.

The following important points that were taken care of in the validation process:

- **Accredited Validation:** The validation of sample areas for the Carbon Finance Project is required to be carried out by a UNFCCC-accredited entity with a global presence, ensuring credibility and international recognition.
- **Sampling Methodology:** Field sampling was undertaken using the Stratified Random Formula, enabling scientifically robust and representative data collection.

- **Desk Review:** Auditors carried out a desk review, during which selected sample plots were scrutinized. The detailed list of these plots was prepared for verification.
- **Key Areas of Enquiry:** The validation team focused on critical aspects, including:
 - Participation of stakeholders in local consultations.
 - Evidence of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of farmers.
 - Review of land ownership records.
 - Formal agreements signed between farmers and project proponents.
 - Verification of tree stock growth on the field.
 - Functioning of the grievance redressal mechanism.
 - Examination of all supporting documentation and project records.
 - GIS-based Validation: Geographic Information System (GIS) tools were used to validate the farm locations and project areas with precision.



During field visits, farmers presented their due diligence records, and structured interviews were conducted by validators with different stakeholder groups. Both opening and closing meetings were held, where all relevant issues, findings, and observations were discussed.

The availability of data and its verification were key highlights of the exercise. The validators emphasized that all findings should be incorporated into the Project Design Document (PDD), and corrective actions should be implemented promptly. Specific **Corrective Action Requests (CARs)** raised during the process included:

- Ensuring the **accuracy and correction of KML files**.
- Strengthening the **grievance management mechanism**.
- Validation of the **project start date**.
- Ensuring compliance with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Submission of stronger **documentary evidence for stakeholder engagement**.

This validation exercise by auditors not only reinforced the robustness of the Farm Forestry Project but also identified areas for refinement, ensuring its alignment with global carbon market standards and strengthening its credibility for carbon credit trading.

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FARM FORESTRY INITIATIVES FOR PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN ODISHA, INDIA

The purpose of this project activity is to restore the degraded farm lands through the afforestation, reforestation and revegetation activity with a parallel objective to encourage tree plantations and tree based farming system to increase the tree cover outside the forest area (TOF). The project activity covers 6304 ha of degraded farmlands and agriculture fallow lands through increasing the vegetative cover by planting multipurpose tree species in twelve forest divisions spanning across ten districts of Odisha State, India. By restoring the degraded farm lands with the native tree species, the project activity will remove the atmospheric carbon dioxide through biological carbon sequestration in the form of tree biomass and soil carbon.

This project was open for public comment from 30/04/2024 to 30/05/2024. Any comments received have been uploaded in the "Other Documents" section below.

PROJECT SUMMARY

ID
5031

VCS

Proponent
Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society
Odisha, India

VCS Project Status
Under validation

Estimated Annual Emission Reductions
175809

VCS Project Type
Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use

AFOLU Activity
ARR

VCS Methodology
VM0047

Acres/Hectares
6304 Hectares

VCS Project Validator
Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.

Crediting Period Term
1st: 01/07/2021 - 30/06/2041

Project Document submitted to VERRA number 5031

List Of the Farm Forestry plots Visited by Auditors

Sl. No.	Division	Name of FMU	Name of VSS	Date:- start of Plantation	Farmer Beneficiary Name	Farm Forestry Model	No. of seedling planted
1	Boudh	Boudh	Sunajhari	09.06.2022	Pandu Bhoi	Pulp wood	1485
2			Sunajhari	09.06.2022	Usha Bhoi		615
3		Kantamal	Bandhagora	26.07.2022	Rashmikanta Pradhani		1200
4			Samakupa	25.07.2021	Prasanta kumar Rout		2000
5		Manmunda	Dinabandhupur	21.07.2022	Pabitra sahu	Agro-Forestry	1000
6	Dhenkanal	K. Nagar west	Aluajharana	22.08.2023	Raj Padhan		1000
7			Aluajharana	22.08.2023	Ranjan Padhan		1000
8		Sadangi	Jharada	27.07.2023	Laxmidhar Guru		1000
9	Jharsuguda	Kolabira	Mahulmunda	10.06.2021	Chintamani Kumura	Pulp wood	800
10		Bagdihi	Pitamal	10.04.2022	Durjodhan Sing	Agri-Horti-Slivi Mix	480
11							174
12		Kolabira	S.Pandkimal	24.6.2022	Hemananda Kisan	Pulp wood	600
13		Bagdihi	Talmunda	01.04.2021	Rupesh Agrawal	Horti-NTFP	400

7.4.10 Change detection in Forest Density for Community Led Sustainable Forest Management under OFSDP Phase II.

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase II follows the Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach, which promotes active participation of local communities in forest governance and management. Under this approach, communities are organized into Vana Surakshya Samitis (VSS), which function as grassroots-level institutions responsible for planning and implementing forest conservation, protection, and livelihood development activities. Project staff provide technical guidance and facilitate participatory planning processes to strengthen community ownership and ensure long-term sustainability of interventions. The assigned area approach for the Joint management of the forests management is followed with capacity development of the Forest fringe Community.

To measure the impact of project interventions in assigned area OFSDP-II uses satellite-based change detection techniques for monitoring forest health and density. Unlike the conventional methodology of the Forest Survey of India, which generally relies on 1:50,000 scale imagery and four broad forest density classes, OFSDP-II adopts high-resolution 1:5,000 scale imagery. This enables more detailed and accurate assessment of small community-managed forest areas and facilitates finer analysis of forest density changes over time.

- Technical Methodology
 - Imagery Used (Baseline – Pre-Intervention): The project utilized Cartosat-2S (2.5 m resolution) pan sharpened/merged with LISS IV MX (5.8 m resolution), achieving an effective resolution suitable for 1:5,000 scale mapping.

Image interpretation was conducted using ArcMap and ERDAS imagine, supplemented with ground truthing and validated through:

 - Forest Survey of India (FSI) map layers
 - ORSAC Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) datasets
 - Google Earth overlays

7.4.11 Forest Density Classification

Unlike the Forest Survey of India's (FSI) standard approach, which classifies forest areas into four broad forest density categories (Very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest, Open Forest, and Scrub), the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase II (OFSDP-II) adopted a more detailed classification system. The project delineated forest areas into eight distinct forest density classes, in addition to incorporating three Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) categories.

List Of the Farm Forestry plots Visited by Auditors	
Scrub	Density less than 10 % and Scrub areas
Open Forest	Forest Density between 10-40%
Moderately Dense Forest	Forest Density between 40-70%
Very Dense Forest	Forest Density above than 70 %



Density classes use in OFSDP-II	
Scrub	Forest area with less than 10 % Forest Density
Open I	Forest area between 10-20 % Forest Density
Open II	Forest area with between 20-30 % Forest Density
Open III	Forest area between 30-40 % Forest Density
MDF I	Forest area between 40-50 % Forest Density
MDF II	Forest area between 50-60 % Forest Density
MDF III	Forest area between 60-70 Forest Density
VDF	Forest area more than 70 % Forest Density
Water Body	Water body occurring in assigned area
Cultivation	Any Cultivation/agriculture in the assigned area
Settlement	Settlement /Built up in VSS assigned area

This expanded classification system was developed to enable **detailed micro-level assessment of ecological changes** within the relatively small forest areas assigned to **Vana Surakshya Samitis (VSS)** under the **Joint Forest Management (JFM)** framework. The conventional methodology adopted by the Forest Survey of India, which is primarily designed for **large-scale national and state-level assessments** using **1:50,000 scale imagery**, is often unable to detect **subtle changes in forest cover, forest degradation, and regeneration trends** occurring at the **community-managed forest level**.

In contrast, the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase II adopted **high-resolution 1:5,000 scale imagery** along with a **detailed forest density classification system**. This approach enabled **accurate monitoring of small, assigned forest patches, improved detection of minor ecological changes, and better assessment of the impacts of community-led forest protection, restoration activities, and sustainable forest management interventions**.

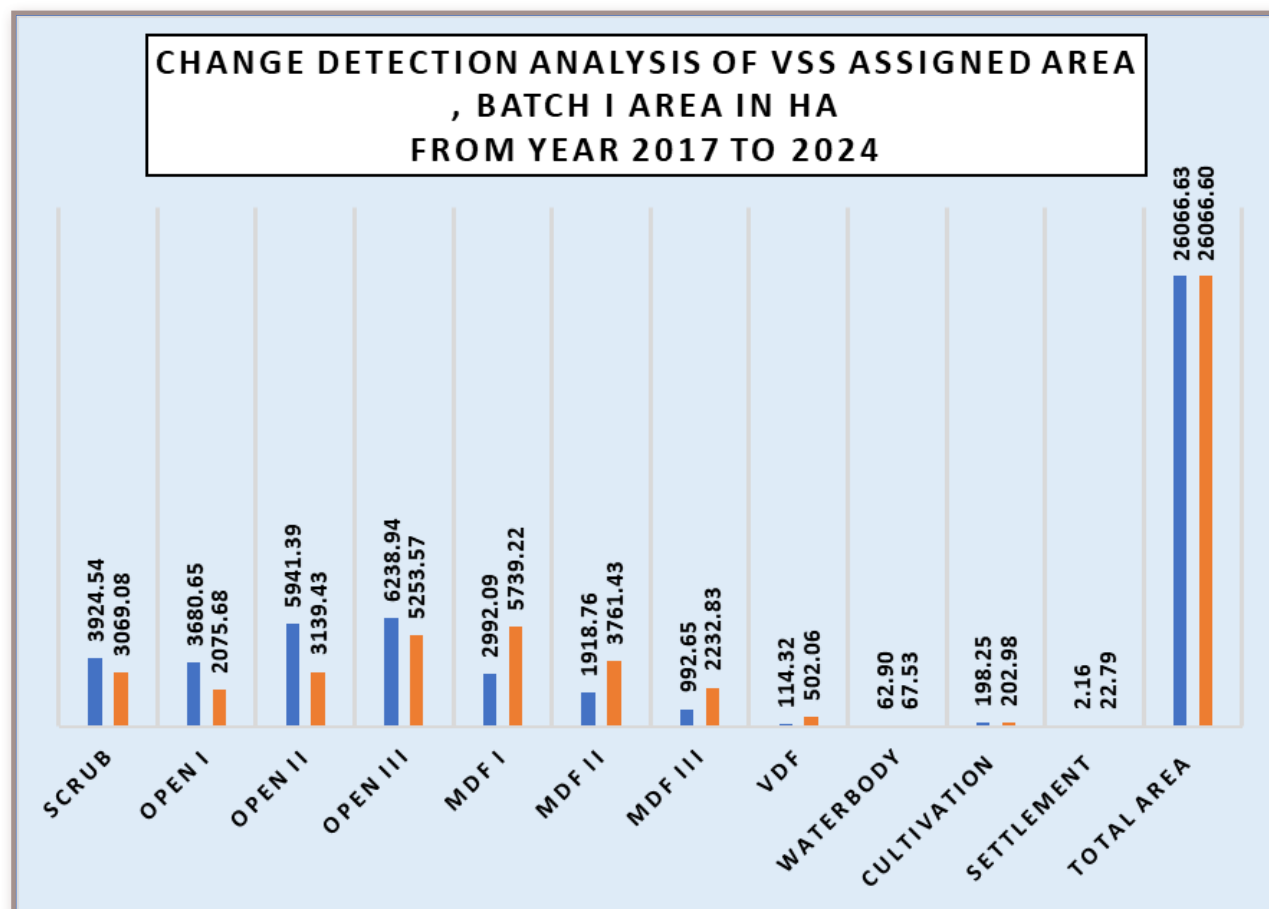
Digitization and Mapping: Forest areas assigned to VSS were digitized for the **2017–18 baseline period**. These digitized maps included overlays of SFM model activities within each VSS. Based on this, **base maps and pre-intervention forest density maps** were developed.

- **Post-Intervention Assessment:** After the time of five years after intervention same exercise were undertaken after procurement of high-resolution imagery from **Cartosat-3MX (1.12 m)** and **Cartosat-2S MX (1.6 m)** from Space India Limited. The same methodology, as used for the baseline period was applied for comparison.
- **Data Integration:** Post-intervention images were analysed using intervention activity layers, Google Earth data, and FSI overlays to ensure consistency in assessment. The comparison of pre- and post-intervention forest density maps showed measurable changes across the 8 density classes, providing a reliable assessment of forest health improvements. Statistical comparisons were carried out at the **Forest Management Unit (FMU) or Division Management Unit (DMU) level**.

During 2025-26 the base on image availability total 265 VSS assigned area were analysed and total 26066.64 ha area were classified in eight density classed and compared with pre and post intervention in assigned area.

Year Wise Change detection in VSS assigned area (ha)		
Year	2017	2024
Scrub	3924.54	3069.08
Open I	3680.65	2075.68
Open II	5941.39	3139.43
Open III	6238.94	5253.57
MDF I	2992.09	5739.22
MDF II	1918.76	3761.43
MDF III	992.65	2232.83
VDF	114.32	502.06
Waterbody	62.90	67.53
Cultivation	198.25	202.98
Settlement	2.16	22.79
Total Area	26066.63	26066.60

S. N.	DMU	Number of VSS taken up for Change detection	Area (ha)
1	Dhenkanal	13	1517.99
2	GH South	5	494.59
3	GH North	25	3335.56
4	Subarnpur	25	1809.27
5	Boudh	15	2296.67
6	Athamalik	18	1188.40
7	Sundargarh	23	2928.94
8	Jharsuguda	11	1289.42
9	Sambalpur	45	3406.43
10	Baripada	40	2980.03
11	Karanjia	19	1948.74
12	Rairangpur	26	2870.59
	Total	265	26066.64

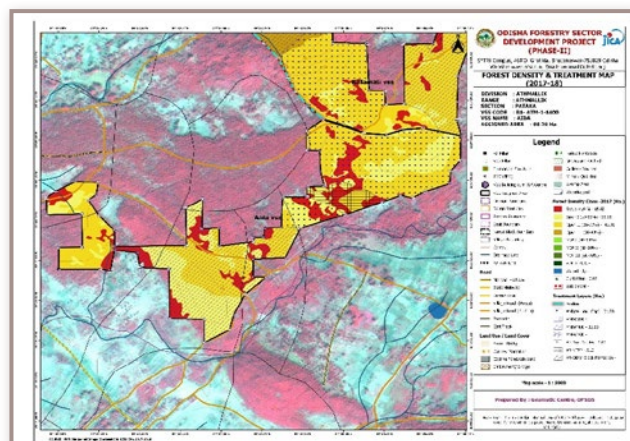


Outcomes: Based on the data analysis and satellite image interpretation, the changes in forest density are summarised below:

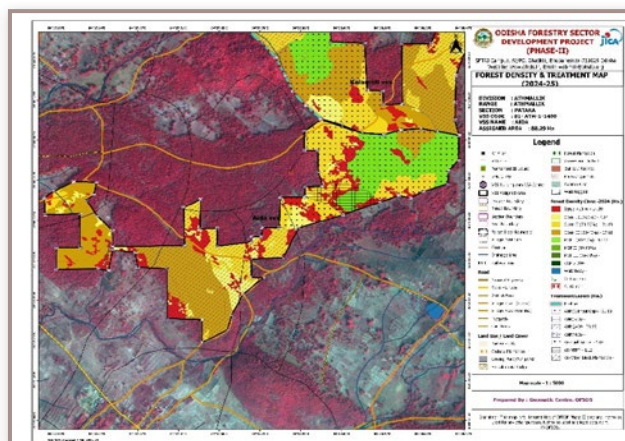
- The Scrub Forest area has reduced significantly.
- The density of Open Forest areas has improved to Moderately Dense Forest categories.
- Within the Open Forest category, forest density has further improved from lower-density Open-I Forest to comparatively denser Open-II and Open-III Forest classes.

The implementation of community-led Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) interventions in the Vana Surakshya Samithi (VSS) areas has resulted in a measurable improvement in forest density and vegetation cover. These positive changes have also been validated through the Community-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (CMRV) system, demonstrating both the effectiveness of the interventions and the reliability of participatory community-based forest monitoring mechanisms.

However, due to the limited availability of high-resolution satellite imagery for the post-intervention period, comparative analysis could presently be carried out only for a subset of the total VSS areas. Procurement of the remaining satellite imagery from Space India Limited is currently under process, subject to data availability.



Pre intervention, Aida VSS (Bi ATM-1-1400)
VSS, Athmallik DMU,



Post intervention, Aida VSS (Bi ATM-1-1400)
VSS, Athmallik DMU

7.4 Environmental and Social Management Safeguard Framework (ESMSF) and Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependent Planning Framework (STFDPF)

7.5.1 Concept and Rationale of ESMSF & STFDPF

The JICA mandates the adoption of Environmental and Social Management Safeguards (ESMS) framework in all the projects, including those in Natural Resource Management sector supported by it across the country. The ESMS Framework is designed to manage environmental and social risks associated with project interventions. It consists of policies, procedures, tools, and internal capacities that enable stakeholders, including local communities, organizations, and individual beneficiaries, to effectively identify and manage these risks. The ESMS framework facilitates the screening of project

components, categorization based on potential environmental and social risks, application of relevant mitigation measures, and monitoring of the project's environmental and social performance. The Key Components of ESMS include

- Policies and Procedures to establish guidelines for identifying and managing risks.
- Tools: Provide methodologies for screening, assessment, and mitigation.
- Internal Capacity: Ensure that stakeholders have the necessary skills and resources.

According to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Guidelines (2010), internalization and an institutional framework are prerequisites for managing the environmental and social impacts of developmental projects, especially in developing nations. The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP II) is categorized as a "Financial Intermediary (FI)" under these guidelines, indicating that it is not expected to have significant negative impacts on environmental and social dimensions. However, the project mandates a broad Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF) and a specific Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependents Plan Framework (STFDPF). The Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF) is a comprehensive framework to manage the project's environmental and social risks. The Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependents Plan Framework (STFDPF) is a specific framework to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Tribes and other forest-dependent communities. Any development project executed in indigenous habitats with multinational financial assistance must adhere to the "Indigenous Peoples' Planning Framework" as per the World Bank's Operational Policy 4.10. This policy, also followed under the JICA Guidelines, aims to protect the rights and interests of indigenous peoples, defined as Scheduled Tribes by the Indian Constitution. Under OFSDP II, the STFDPF is developed to ensure that the development, livelihood, and social interests of Scheduled Tribes and other forest dependents are safeguarded. Ultimately, the ESMSF, guided by JICA and World Bank policies, ensures that developmental projects like OFSDP II do not adversely affect the environment and local communities. By incorporating frameworks such as the ESMSF and STFDPF, the project proactively addresses and mitigates potential risks, promoting sustainable development and the welfare of indigenous and forest-dependent populations.

7.5.2 ESMSF and STFDPF under OFSDP-II

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project II (OFSDP-II), in line with other participatory forest management initiatives across India, is primarily aimed at enhancing biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, wildlife protection, and soil and moisture conservation. These objectives reflect a comprehensive approach to forest and environmental stewardship. In addition to ecological goals, the project emphasizes community development through convergence with various Govt line departments which involved construction of VSS facilitation centers in all VSSs, local infrastructure, and roads within forested and village areas. It also included support for income-generating activities through the provision of Revolving Funds utilized for purchasing small-scale machinery and equipments. While these interventions aim to improve the quality of life and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, they may also pose minor environmental and social risks. To manage these potential risks and ensure responsible implementation, two key frameworks are employed:

- i. Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF)



This framework provides structured guidance for:

- Identifying and assessing potential environmental and social impacts;
- Adopting appropriate mitigation measures;
- Ensuring environmentally sound practices throughout project execution.

ii. Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependents Plan Framework (STFDP)

Specifically tailored to safeguard vulnerable populations, the STFDP ensures:

- Full consideration of the rights, needs, and aspirations of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Forest Dependent (FD) communities;
- Equitable benefits from project activities;
- Inclusive decision-making processes and sustained community engagement.

Together, the ESMSF and STFDP frameworks uphold the project's commitment to sustainable, inclusive, and participatory forest management, ensuring that developmental interventions are both environmentally responsible and socially equitable.

In this regard, the micro-plan serves as a participatory planning tool at the grassroots level and it helps to visualize the project implementation and develop indicators to assess potential impacts. The key features of this approach include:

- community involvement in planning and decision-making processes;
- using micro-plans to forecast and evaluate environmental and social impacts and
- incorporating broad checklists in revised micro-formats to monitor the effectiveness of safeguard measures.

The key benefits of the frameworks are:

- comprehensive Safeguards in the form of comprehensive and detailed checklists with procedures for assessing and monitoring environmental and social management measures;
- providing special focus on vulnerable communities by giving attention to the developmental and social concerns of ST and FD communities, ensuring their interests are safeguarded and
- achieving more sustainable and inclusive project outcomes by adhering to these frameworks.

While promoting forest conservation and sustainable management, OFSDP-II was also conscious about the potential environmental and social risks associated with infrastructure development. The ESMSF and STFDP frameworks prescribe required guidelines / remedial actions to mitigate these risks, ensuring that project interventions are both environmentally sound and socially acceptable. Participatory micro-planning further enhances the project's effectiveness by involving communities in the planning process and establishing robust mechanisms for impact assessment and monitoring.

7.5.3 Key objectives of ESMSF under OFSDP-II

The key objectives of ESMSF are:

- To provide practical guidance for identification, planning and implementing the environmental and social management measures across different components of the project and
- To enhance the project's positive environmental and social impacts and avoid or otherwise mitigate associated negative impacts.

7.5.4 Key objectives of STFDPF under OFSDP-II

The key objectives of STFDPF are:

- To ascertain that the project does not inadvertently induce disempowerment, or increase disparities between the tribal and other communities, and
- To propose ways for minimizing and mitigating adverse impacts on tribal households and their livelihoods

7.5.5 Progress made in Implementation of ESMSF & STFDPF under OFADP-II

The Environmental and Social Management Safeguard Framework (ESMSF) and the Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dweller Participation Framework (STFDPF) are integral cross-cutting components of the OFSDP II project. These frameworks are embedded throughout the project cycle to ensure compliance with environmental and social regulations and alignment with the policies of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The application and implementation of these frameworks are monitored rigorously through:

- Regular Progress Reporting: Framework implementation is tracked through systematic and periodic progress reports.
- Management Information System (MIS): Results /information related to ESMSF and STFDPF from the VSS level were incorporated into the OFSDP II MIS, enabling informed decision-making and efficient project oversight.
- Micro Plan Revisits: Periodic revisits to micro plans facilitate ongoing assessment of environmental and social impacts and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

During the fiscal year 2025–26, following actions with respect to implementation of ESMSF and STFDPF Frameworks were carried out under the project:

- Most project activities adhered to applicable legal and regulatory requirements and were aligned with JICA's environmental and social policies.
- Monitoring outcomes were successfully integrated into the project MIS, improving data-driven management and oversight.
- Revisions of micro plans were conducted based on emerging environmental and social dynamics, ensuring adaptive and responsive planning.
- Progress reports outlining key achievements and identifying areas for improvement were prepared and regularly submitted to JICA.

This kind of strong monitoring and reporting framework promoted transparency, accountability, and safeguard compliance throughout project implementation.

7.5.5.1 Incorporation of ESMSF & STFDPF Related Formats in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision

Both in English and Odia versions of ESMSF & STFDPF related formats were prepared and included in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision exercise taken up in all VSSs. These formats helped to collect



information needed for monitoring the implementation of environmental and social (with particular respect to ST&FD communities) related safeguards at VSS level and accordingly to formulate the mitigation measures in collaboration with the VSSs.

- i. Framework for Environmental Safeguards at VSS / EDC Level
- ii. Framework for Social Safeguards at VSS / EDC Level
- iii. Applicability of ESMSF and STFDPF
- iv. STFDPF: Monitoring items, Indicators, means and Frequency of Verification & Responsibility Framework
- v. Format for Assessment of STFDPF Safeguards at VSS Level

Relevant data on ESMSF and STFDPF were collected from the VSS level through these formats during the process of micro plan revisit and the same are captured through MIS portal at PMU level for meaningful analysis and initiate appropriate remedial actions.

7.5.5.2 Capacity Building in Implementation / Monitoring of ESMS and STFDPF Safeguard Frameworks at VSS Level

Following the orientation training programs for the DMU staff, capacity building training programs for the field level staff, orienting them how to use the revised formats (inclusive of ESMSF & STFDPF related formats) included in the Handbook for micro plan revision for the FMU & PNGO staff and for VSS and SHG members were conducted by the SMSs of DMU as the Master Trainers.

7.5.5.3 Review of Revised Micro Plans Prepared by DMUs

The process of revising and refining the micro plans of all VSSs ensured that the micro plans were aligned with the ESMSF and STFDPF. The experts from the Project Management Consultant (PMC) conducted a thorough review of the samples of the revised micro plans submitted by the DMUs. The experts also prepared a detailed feedback report addressing all sections of the revised micro plans, including the ESMSF and STFDPF components and shared with the respective DMUs, providing clear guidelines for necessary corrections and modifications.

In addition, the PMC experts conducted review meetings at the headquarters of each DMU. These meetings were attended by DMU Chiefs, Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs) along with the FMU Coordinators, Partner Non-Governmental Organization (PNGO) staff, and VSS secretaries of the VSSs. During these meetings, all doubts or misunderstandings raised by the DMU and field staff regarding the revised micro plans, especially the cross-cutting components like ESMSF and STFDPF, were addressed. The meetings provided an opportunity for detailed discussions, helping the staff to understand the required corrections and properly implement them in the revised micro plans. Following were the benefits derived from these review meetings at DMU level listed below:

- The combination of written feedback and interactive review meetings ensured that all stakeholders clearly understood the required changes in collection of information regarding the implementation of ESMSF & STFDPF.
- The collaborative approach improved the quality and compliance of the revised micro plans with the ESMSF and STFDPF requirements.

- Through such structured review and feedback mechanism, the project ensured that the revised micro plans were not only compliant with the relevant ESMSF & STFDPF frameworks but also tailored to effectively address the environmental and social aspects of the project.

7.5.6 Analysis of ESMSF & STFDPF Related Data Captured at VSS Level through Revised Micro Plans

The data /information related to the status of implementation of ESMS & STFDPF frameworks at VSS level were captured through the following formats which were included in the Handbook of Micro Plan Revision for capturing ESMSF & STFDPF related responses at VSS level:

- Framework for Environmental Safeguards at VSS / EDC Level
- Framework for Social Safeguards at VSS / EDC Level
- Applicability of ESMSF and STFDPF
- STFDPF: Monitoring items, Indicators, means and Frequency of Verification & Responsibility Framework
- Format for Assessment of STFDPF Safeguards at VSS Level

7.5.6.1 Overall Analysis of Environmental Safeguard Related Data Captured through Revised Micro Plans at VSS Level

Summary of Responses from the VSSs on Compliance of Prescribed Environmental Safeguards

Percentage of VSSs given positive (yes) response to questions / actions (compliance) related to environmental safeguards						
Extent of compliance	100% positive i.e 'Yes' response to all 22 questions	91.00 to 96.00 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 20-21 questions & 'No' to 01-02 question	81.00 to 86.00% positive i.e 'Yes' to 18-19 questions & 'No' to 03 - 04 questions	73.00 to 77.00 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 16-17 questions & 'No' to 05-06 questions	64.00 to 68.00 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 14-15 questions & 'No' to 07 -08 questions	55.00 to 60.00 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 12-13 questions & 'No' to 09-10 questions
% of VSS	14.00%	22.00%	21.00%	22.00%	17.00%	4.00%

Inference derived from the analysis of data on compliance of Environmental Safeguards at VSS level:

The analysis / interpretation of above-mentioned data related to compliance of environmental safeguards indicated the following trend with respect to compliance of environmental safeguards at VSS level under the project:

- The compliance of different prescribed environmental safeguards among the total VSSs varied from 56.00% to 100%
- Prescribed environmental safeguards that were complied cent per cent (100%) by the VSSs were
 - Improved Forest growth,
 - Planning Control of forest fire,
 - Fire line tracing,



- Creating awareness on fire control,
- Controlled grazing and
- Forest protection measures
- Plantation of indigenous species
- Use of bio fertilizers
- Adopting sustainable harvesting practices

The other prescribed environmental safeguards which closely complied by most of the VSSs were

- Use of Indigenous tech. knowledge
- Proper disposal of polybags used in the nursery
- Mitigating dust pollution and solid waste management
- Adoption of NTFP based livelihood
- Promotion of value addition to NTFPs

iii. Among the prescribed environmental safeguards, the least (minimum extent) complied by the VSSs were 'Proper maintenance of cement / concrete / stone / earthen DLT structures'

iv. In the case of environmental safeguards,

- VSSs of all four batches fall in compliance range between 50.00% and 100%.
 - one-tenth of VSSs had complied all (100%) prescribed environmental safeguards.
- v. DMU wise Environmental safeguard analysis reveals the following trend in complying prescribed environmental safeguards by VSSs under different DMUs
- The VSSs of all 12 divisions had shown 56% to 100% compliance of environmental related safeguards.
 - The VSSs in most of the divisions had complied 75 % to 90% of prescribed environmental safeguards.
 - Few numbers of VSSs in some divisions showed a lower (less than 60%) range of compliance of environmental safeguards

In overall assessment, most of the VSSs of all 12 DMUs showed a reasonably good-level positive response towards fulfilling actions related to prescribed environmental safeguards. Though the minimum level of compliance of prescribed environmental safeguards by the VSSs in the DMUs was found to be 50%, measures to be initiated by the project personnel to sensitize and educate the VSSs, particularly those falling within the compliance range of 50 to 75% on the importance and necessity of fulfilling the environmental safeguards as per the prescribed norms of JICA during the implementation process of project components related to sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, livelihood promotion, other convergence activities and so on.

7.5.6.2 Analysis of Social Safeguard Related Data Captured through Revised Micro Plans of Batch-III & IV VSSs

Summary of Responses from VSSs on Compliance of Social Safeguards

Percentage of VSSs given positive (yes) response to questions / actions (compliance) related to Social Safeguards			
Extent of compliance	100% positive i.e 'Yes' response to all 33 questions	96.92 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 32 questions & 'No' to 01 question	93.94 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 31 questions & 'No' to 02 question
% of VSS	59.68%	40.00%	0.32%

Inference derived from the analysis of data on compliance of Social Safeguards at Batch-III & IV VSS level:

The analysis / interpretation of above-mentioned data related to compliance of social safeguards indicated the following trend with respect to compliance of social safeguards at VSS level under the project:

- The extent of compliance of different prescribed social safeguards among the VSSs was very high, varying from 95.00% to 100%
- Among the VSSs, 57.00 % showed between 100% and 96.00% compliance of prescribed social safeguards.
- Prescribed social safeguards that were complied cent per cent (100%) by the VSSs were

Prescribed social safeguard measures that were fully complied by most VSSs
Involvement of VSS members in Capacity Building Measures
Economically and socially vulnerable sections of the VSS included in community development activities
Finalization of boundary and demarcation of assigned area of the VSS in presence of representative of all villages with common boundary along with the Member Convenor of concerned VSSs.
Adequate consultation and representation by all sections of the community in deciding the list of entitlement linkages
Adequate consultation and participation of vulnerable groups done in micro planning preparation
Participatory procedures followed for micro planning, screening of sub-projects and avoidance of projects leading to conflict
Poorest of Poor HHs & Vulnerable HHs identified
Convergence of schemes of line Department
Generation of employment through forestry activities
Income-generating Activities taken up in the village
Poorest of Poor HHs & Vulnerable HHs included in IGA Activities
Availability of Community Infrastructure
Participation of women, ST, SC and PoPs in Livelihood initiatives.

Prescribed social safeguard measures that were fully complied by most VSSs

Participation of all genders in the decision-making processes and in implementation of community development activities
Issues related to all genders considered and addressed in community development works
Participation of members in VSS functioning and meetings
Use of community assets created under the project by all genders
Priority is given to employ the poorest of poor households and women in wage generating employment under SFM Works
Discrimination in term of caste / class / gender / religion is avoided

iv. DMU wise social safeguard analysis revealed the following trend in complying prescribed social safeguards by the VSSs under different DMUs

- In six out of 12 DMUs all the VSSs of Batch-III & IV have fully complied the social safeguards measures.
- In rest of the six DMUs, substantial number of VSSs reflected 96.00% compliance with regard to social safeguards

In overall assessment, almost all the VSSs of all 12 DMUs showed almost full extent of compliance level as far as the social safeguards are concerned. Compared to the compliance level of environmental safeguards, compliance level was relatively much better in the case of social safeguards. This trend reflected the good level of social consciousness, sensitivity and social responsibility among the VSSs in all the 12 DMUs under OFSDP-II.

7.5.6.3 Analysis of Data Related to Safeguards prescribed in Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependent Plan Framework (STFDPF) Captured through Revised Micro Plans of VSSs

Summary of Responses from VSSs on STFDPF Compliance / Actions towards STFDPF Related actions

Percentage of VSSs given positive (yes) response to STFDPF questions / actions (Extent of compliance of prescribed STFDPF parameters)							
Extent of compliance	100% i.e 'Yes' response to all 30 questions	90.00 to 97.00% i.e 'Yes' to 27 -29 questions & 'No' to 01 - 03 questions	80.00 to 87.00% i.e 'Yes' to 25-26 questions & 'No' to 04 - 05 questions	70.00 to 77.00% i.e 'Yes' to 21 -23 questions & 'No' to 07 - 09 questions	60.00 to 67.00% i.e 'Yes' to 18-20 questions & 'No' to 10 -12 questions	53.00 to 57.00% i.e 'Yes' to 14-17 questions & 'No' to 13-16 questions	100% i.e 'No' response to all 30 questions
% of VSS	42.00%	10.00%	9.00 %	17.00%	14.00%	7.00%	1.00%

Inference derived from the analysis of data on compliance of safeguards prescribed in Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependent Plan Framework (STFDPF) at VSS level:

The analysis / interpretation of above-mentioned data related to compliance of safeguards prescribed in STFDPF indicated the following trend with respect to compliance of STFDPF safeguards at VSS level under the project:

- i. The extent of compliance of the prescribed safeguards in STFDPF among the VSSs was fairly high, ranging from 51.00 to 100%.
- ii. About 40% of VSSs had fulfilled all the safeguard requirements i.e. all 30 prescribed safeguards amounting to 100% compliance; 10% VSSs had complied with 90 to 95% prescribed safeguards, while 7% VSSs fell within the range of 80 to 85% of compliance; 20% VSSs have fulfilled 70-75% compliance and 12 % VSSs reflect 60-65% compliance. Put together, almost 90% VSSs showed the compliance range of 60 to 100% with respect to the prescribed safeguards in STFDPF.
- iii. Only a few VSSs (about 8%) have shown relatively low range i.e. less than 60% compliance as far as the prescribed safeguards in STFDPF.
- iv. The observed trend of compliance with different safeguards among the total number of 30 prescribed in STFDPF by the VSSs was as follows:
 - Most of the STFDPF safeguards were complied by more than 75% of VSSs. Those safeguards are listed below:
 - Equitable distribution of project / micro plan benefits among SC/ST/FD communities
 - Micro plan interventions providing livelihood opportunities to SC/ ST/FD communities.
 - Implementation of micro plan benefitted the ST and Forest Dependent communities
 - The SC/ST/ forest dweller members of VSS regularly participating in consultations on formulating ST & FD planning
 - The women & elder ST/SC/ FD groups of VSS regularly participating in the consultations
 - All the scheduled consultation meetings informed the members in advance
 - The SC / ST/ FD members of VSS attend the consultation meetings voluntarily / freely without compulsion
 - The SC / ST/ FD members freely express their opinion / ideas in the consolation meetings
 - The SC/ST / FD communities well aware and convinced about the impacts of micro plan interventions
 - The SC/ST / FD communities actively participated in planning & implementation of micro plan and convergence activities
 - The women ST/SC/ FD members of VSS regularly participate in capacity building / training programs / review meetings
 - The STFDPF target & PoP households actively involved in the micro plan preparation exercise / process
 - The STFDPF target & PoP households actively participate / contribute in the micro plan implementation.
 - Micro plan interventions having an impact on the socio- economic condition of the ST& FD communities
 - Results of STFDPF safeguards assessment at VSS level been documented and shared among all stakeholders



- The report containing the results of the assessment of STFDPF safeguards written in simple local language
 - The VSS members (especially EC / informed members) were involved in planning & implementation of STFDPF safeguard measures.
 - The capacity building / training programs / review meetings on STDDPF conducted at regular intervals and at relevant stages of project implementation
 - The SC/ST/ FD members of VSS regularly participating in capacity building / training programs / review meetings conducted at different stages of project implementation
 - The Grievance Redressal Committee with prescribed members been constituted at DMU level for the redressal of grievances received from the STFDPF target group
- DMU wise STFDPF safeguards analysis revealed that six out of 12 DMUs had almost fully (97 to 100%) complied the STFDPF safeguards measures.

In overall assessment, almost all the VSSs in all 12 DMUs had shown a reasonable compliance range (51 to 100%) with respect to STFDPF safeguards. However, measures to be initiated by the project personnel to sensitize and educate the VSSs, particularly those falling within the compliance range of 50 to 70% on the importance and necessity of fulfilling the safeguards in STFDPF as per the prescribed norms of JICA during the implementation process of project components related to sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, livelihood promotion, other convergence activities and so on.

Capacity Building Initiatives

8.1 Introduction

Capacity building involves systematic and planned efforts to empower individuals, groups, and communities by strengthening their knowledge, skills, and competencies. It enhances their ability to effectively plan, implement, and monitor development interventions. This process operates at multiple levels—individual, community, and institutional—and is essential for improving performance and achieving sustainable outcomes.

In the development context, capacity building plays a critical role in enabling communities to address their own challenges. A community-driven approach ensures that development is sustainable and locally owned rather than externally imposed. Strengthening local skills, resources, and institutional frameworks lays the foundation for long-term resilience and self-reliant growth.

Under OFSDP-II, capacity building adopts a holistic approach that extends beyond conventional training. It focuses on strengthening individual capabilities alongside institutional and organizational development. Emphasis is placed on enhancing social and human capital by leveraging local knowledge and resources. The preparation and revision of micro-plans by Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) is a key example of successful community-level capacity building. Overall, these efforts promote local leadership, reduce dependency on external support, and foster sustainable development.

Progress of Capacity Building

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase-II has made significant progress across multiple components and is currently focusing on promoting Income Generating Activities (IGAs) through Community-Based Organisations (CBOs). This strategic shift supports sustainable livelihoods and grassroots empowerment.

Institutions such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Common Interest Groups (CIGs) are being strengthened, with targeted support provided to vulnerable households. Multi-Product Clusters have been established to improve market access and enhance the economic viability of forest-based livelihoods. Capacity building initiatives in entrepreneurship and business development are enabling community members to actively participate in value chains.

During the reporting year, training programmes were conducted at DMU, FMU, and VSS levels on Sustainable Forest Management, Forest Fire Management, and Community-Based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+ readiness. Special emphasis was placed on gender mainstreaming and inclusive participation.

The integration of Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF) and the focus on Scheduled Tribes and forest-dependent communities reflect an inclusive development approach. Capacity building was also undertaken for revisiting micro-plans for Batch-III VSSs.

The project adopts a comprehensive skill development strategy covering various livelihood activities including agriculture, composting, livestock rearing, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, bamboo crafts, and food processing. These initiatives not only diversify income sources but also empower communities, especially women.

8.2 Capacity Building Training Initiatives

8.2.1 Satoyama Initiatives

Training on indigenous organic paddy cultivation was conducted at the EDC level with support from Kanak Bioscience Pvt. Ltd. These initiatives promote sustainable agriculture while enhancing income and market linkages.

8.2.2 Training at DMU / FMU Level

Revisit of Micro Plans

Revisiting of micro-plans was undertaken in 403 VSSs across 12 DMUs. Trained DMU officials acted as master trainers to guide FMU staff and community members. Trainings covered new components such as People's Biodiversity Register, Gender Mainstreaming, ESMSF and Community-Based MRV.



Forest Fire Management

Preventive measures and awareness campaigns were conducted across 1210 VSSs. Activities included training, cultural programmes, rallies, and awareness materials, resulting in a significant reduction in forest fire incidents.

Vermi Composting

Initiatives in Sundargarh, Boudh, and Sambalpur promoted vermi compost units as both an organic farming input and income source. SHGs actively engaged in production and marketing, generating substantial revenue.



IGA Skill Development

Trainings on mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, pisciculture, and vegetable cultivation were conducted at various levels, benefiting primary stakeholders across project areas.



Capacity Building Trainings During 2025-26

Themes of training	Level of Training	Trainings (In Nos.)	Participants
Training of IFS Probationers allotted to Odisha	PMU level	06	210
Exposure Visit of HP Team (10 Members)			
Training programme on Carbon Credit Project			
Exposure visit to Kerala			
CBT on Revisit of Micro Plan	DMU Level	02	60
Training of IGA & Value Addition			
Training of Working Group & Women Working Group on Revisit of Micro Plan	FMU Level	66	2151
Training on Forest Fire Control & Management			
Training on Farm Forestry Plantation			
Training on Skill Programme on IGA			
Training on Cultivation of Aromatic Paddy			
Exposure Visits of Primary Stakeholders on Income Group Activities			
Total- 2025-26 (Up to March, 2026)		74	2421

Altogether, a total of 5122 numbers of trainings/ workshops have been conducted in 34 themes covering 209028 numbers of participants under OFSDP-II till March, 2026.

8.2.3 Overseas Exposure Visits to Japan (2025-26)

Sri Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Chief Executive Officer, CAMPA, Bhubaneswar, participated in the JICA-sponsored international training programme on "*Sustainable Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation*" held in Japan from 12th January to 22nd January 2026.

The programme, organized with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, focused on advanced approaches to sustainable forest management, conservation of biodiversity, and integration of community participation in forest governance. The training included classroom sessions, field visits and interactions with Japanese forestry experts, government agencies and research institutions.

Key areas covered during the visit included:

- Scientific forest management practices and precision silviculture techniques
- Biodiversity conservation strategies, including habitat restoration and species protection
- Application of modern technologies such as GIS, remote sensing, and forest monitoring systems
- Community-based forest management models and stakeholder engagement mechanisms
- Climate-resilient forestry practices and carbon sequestration initiatives

Field visits provided firsthand exposure to Japan's well-managed forest landscapes, afforestation models, and conservation sites, highlighting efficient institutional mechanisms and policy frameworks.

The programme offered valuable insights that can be adapted in the Indian context, particularly for strengthening CAMPA and OFSDP-II interventions, improving afforestation quality, enhancing biodiversity conservation and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities linked to forest ecosystems.

Overall, the visit contributed significantly to knowledge enhancement and capacity building, with potential applications in planning and implementation of forestry and conservation programmes in Odisha.

Coordination and Supporting Activities

Periodical coordination and review of progress related to project activities, planning, coordination, collaborations, implementation etc., at different levels of project management were conducted during the year 2024-25 for better coordination, and to provide support to the entire team of OFSDP-II.

9.1 Meeting of High-Power Committee (HPC)

The High- Power Committee (HPC) of OFSDS is the highest decision-making body of the Society. It is chaired by the Chief Secretary with the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department as the Vice Chairman and plays a significant role in making policy level decisions in connection with the operational management and implementation of the project. HPC also facilitates coordination between different line departments and OFSDP-II for optimal and successful inter-sectoral convergence so as to ensure the benefits of various poverty alleviation schemes / programmes adequately reach the needy households in the remote forest fringe villages under the project. In view of this coordination role of HPC, Senior Officers at Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary levels from different govt. Departments such as Finance, Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment, Revenue and Disaster Management, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, ST and SC Development, Rural Development, Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti, Health and Family Welfare, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HoFF and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha etc. are the members of the Committee.

The HPC meetings under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Odisha are being organized on six-monthly basis. While reviewing the progress of work, the HPC also discusses about the challenges and issues relating to project implementation, inter-sectoral convergence etc., during the meetings.

9.2 Governing Body Meeting of OFSDS

Governing Body of OFSDS is the planning and decision-making body of OFSDP-II as per the Society Registration Act, 1860. The Governing Body Meeting used to be organised by the PMU for various decision making, and supporting the PMU in tandem with the Budget approval, Annual Action plan, and other suggestions. GB Meeting helps to review the progress of the project on a regular basis and give approval if any required for betterment of the project.

9.3 PMU level Review Meetings

Review Meetings with the Divisional Forest Officers are being regularly organized at PMU level to track physical and financial achievements vis-a-vis the plan for the corresponding quarter. During the year under report, component wise physical and financial progress made by each DMU was being reviewed under the Chairmanship of PCCF (Projects) & Project Director. Decisions taken in the meeting were recorded and the proceedings of the meetings were regularly communicated to all concerned Circle RCCFs and DMU Chiefs for information and timely action at DMU and FMU levels.

9.4 DMU level Meetings

Monthly review cum P-NGO Coordination Committee Meeting was being held in every month at each Divisional Management Unit to monitor the progress of work vis-a-vis the plan. This meeting used to be conducted to review the plan of action of previous month and prepare the action plan for the next month for the project personnel and the P-NGO team.

9.5 FMU level Meetings

FMU level meetings and Block Advisory Committee Meetings are being regularly organised on a monthly basis with the project staff and the P-NGO team under the chairmanship of respective FMU Chiefs of OFSDP-II to track the progress and to take necessary decisions for timely execution of the project. This meeting serves as a good platform to meticulously plan and execute the activities at VSS level.

9.6 VSS/EDC level Meetings

Executive Committee meetings at the VSS level were being regularly conducted in each VSSs under OFSDP-II. Concurrent monitoring and supervision at the VSS level was taken up to ensure timely implementation of the project components. Required inputs is rendered by PMU to the DMUs and FMUs as and when required for smooth and timely implementation of project interventions at respective VSS level. For smooth implementation of project VSS level meetings are highly essential and therefore it was decided to conduct regular meetings without fail.

Number of Meetings conducted at different levels during 2025-26

Name of the Meeting	No of Meetings Conducted
High Power Committee Meeting	Nil
Governing Body Meeting	Nil
PMU Review Meetings	10 Nos.
DMU level Review Meeting	92 Nos.
FMU level Meetings	650 Nos.
VSS Meetings	19843 Nos.
Total Number of Meetings	20,595



9.7 Inter-Sectoral Coordination Committee Meetings

Inter-sectoral Coordination Committee meetings were organized at block level during every month under the chairmanship of Block Development Officer (BDO) of the respective Blocks. The FMU Chief is the Member- Convenor and block level officers of different Departments attend the meeting as members. This forum was established to review and plan the community development activities to implement inter-sectoral convergence activities with other line departments at VSS level.

9.8 District Advisory Committee Meeting

District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting was being regularly organised for Inter-sectoral coordination. The meeting is chaired by the Collector and District Magistrate. Divisional Forest Officer of the concerned Division Head Quarter was the member-convenor of the meeting. Senior officials of other line Departments are the members of the DAC. These meetings were conducted on a monthly basis or once in every two months as per the availability of the Collector and other senior officials of line departments. This forum helps the project to ensure optimal coordination with other line departments for taking up the Convergence activities identified by the villagers during micro planning processes.

Number of BLAC & DAC meetings organized during the year 2025-26

Name of the meeting	No of Meetings conducted during 2025-26
District Advisory Committee Meeting	07
Block level Coordination Committee Meeting	265

This is an organised structure of the project for streamlining of the activities and for optimal use of the resources.

10.1 Communication Strategy in OFSDP-II

A clearly articulated communication strategy is essential to bridge the gap between situation analysis and the successful execution of a Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) program. This adaptive and evolving framework delineates the role of SBCC in advancing the project's overarching vision, ensuring coherence with organizational priorities and the broader implementation approach. Grounded in established behavioural change models and principles of human communication, the strategy serves as a guide for designing and implementing outreach efforts aimed at fostering sustainable and constructive social and behavioural shifts.

Within the context of OFSDP-II, a multi-tiered and adaptive communication strategy has been adopted, deploying a variety of tools to ensure active stakeholder participation throughout the project lifecycle. This approach has effectively aligned project teams with developmental objectives through both strategic and operational communication, while simultaneously enhancing community mobilization and empowerment—critical to the success of field-level interventions.

The communication strategy, along with its detailed implementation plan, forms an integral part of the OFSDP-II Annual Plan. It is purposefully tailored to address the information and engagement needs of diverse target groups, including personnel across PMU, DMU, and FMU levels, as well as the VSS-based community structures. Activities under the strategy are carefully designed, contextualized, and delivered to maximize their relevance and impact across various operational tiers.

OFSDS employs a spectrum of communication channels—including institutional communication, documentation, and digital media—to ensure timely and accurate dissemination of information to all stakeholders. As outlined in the project framework, OFSDP-II emphasizes three fundamental communication forms that are central to effective project governance:

1. **Information Management** – Ensuring systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of data and knowledge products.
2. **Internal Communication** – Facilitating coordination and information flow among project personnel at various levels.
3. **External Communication** – Engaging with external stakeholders, partners, and communities to build awareness and support for project initiatives.

10.2 Knowledge Management

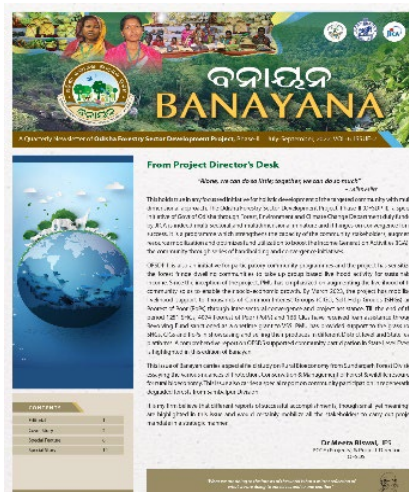
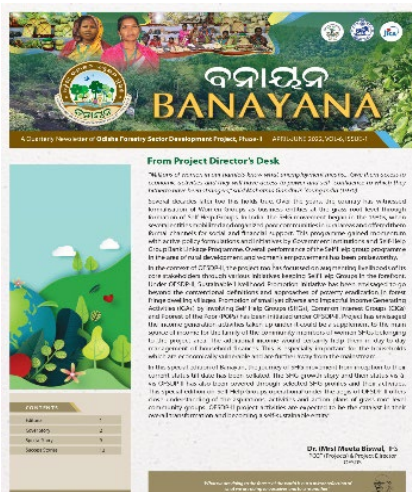
The Project Management Unit (PMU) of OFSDP-II implements an approved process documentation strategy that leverages knowledge management techniques to systematically collect, organize, and disseminate information. This strategy establishes a structured information system designed to store, share, and analyse data critical for effective project management, guided by clearly defined methodologies.

Information dissemination is carried out through multiple channels, including the project website and a variety of publications such as booklets, guidelines, newsletters, and flyers. Additionally, short films and visual documentaries are employed to enhance outreach and stakeholder engagement. These efforts collectively ensure a continuous and transparent flow of information to all relevant stakeholders. To support this framework, OFSDP-II has developed a detailed process documentation strategy guideline. This document specifies the communication channels, core concepts, and procedural steps involved in the documentation process. It further outlines the associated activities, expected deliverables, and responsibility centres, equipping project personnel with a comprehensive understanding of their roles and the overall documentation workflow.

10.3 Publications during 2025-26

Following publications were made during the year 2025-26

1. Annual Activity Report of OFSDP, Phase-II – 2024-25.
2. Banayana Vol-9, Issue-1, Apr- June 2025 Edition
3. Banayana Vol-8, Issue-4, Jan-Mar 2025 Edition
4. Banayana Vol-8, Issue-3, Oct-Dec 2024 Edition
5. Banayana Vol-7, Issue-2, Aug-Sept 2024 Edition





10.4 Documentaries produced during 2025-26

During the reporting period, the Project Management Unit (PMU) undertook a series of thematic audio-visual documentation initiatives to capture, consolidate, and disseminate key interventions and best practices under OFSDP-II. These documentaries and short films have been conceptualized to enhance knowledge sharing, stakeholder engagement, and visibility of project achievements across multiple platforms.

The following major documentary and video initiatives were taken up:

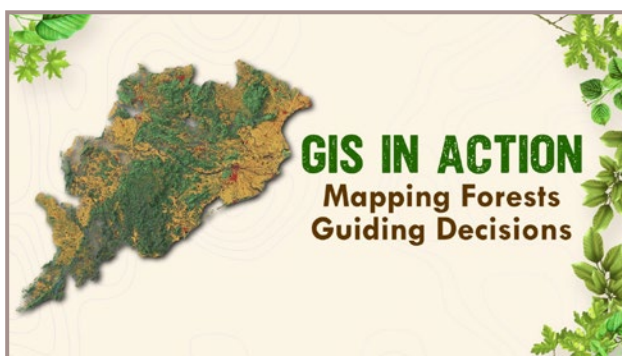
1. **"Beyond the Last Miles"** – A flagship documentary capturing the overall vision, outreach, and impact of OFSDP-II across project landscapes.
2. **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)** – Documentation focusing on farm forestry and plantation activities, highlighting sustainable practices and field-level outcomes.
3. **Satoyama Initiative under OFSDP-II** – A thematic film showcasing landscape-level interventions promoting harmony between forest ecosystems and local communities.
4. **Bhitarkanika Conservation Area** – Documentation of conservation efforts and biodiversity management under the OFSDP-II framework.
5. **Revolving Fund Mobilization for Livelihood Transformation** – A film illustrating financial inclusion mechanisms and their role in strengthening community livelihoods.
6. **Cluster-Based Activities** – Documentation of multi-product cluster promotion initiatives aimed at enhancing value addition and market linkages.
7. **GIS and Web-based Applications – "GIS in Action"** – Showcasing the application of geospatial technologies and digital tools in project planning, monitoring, and decision-making.
8. **Division-level Interventions** – Consolidated visual documentation capturing innovative practices and success stories from various divisions.
9. **Convergence Activities** – Highlighting inter-departmental and cross-sectoral convergence efforts supporting project objectives.
10. **Teasers for National Workshop** – Development of short promotional videos to build engagement and outreach for the National Workshop.

These audio-visual products were developed in collaboration with professional agencies, with overall guidance and content validation by the PMU. The outputs are designed in multiple formats to cater to diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, technical experts, and community audiences. Collectively, these initiatives have strengthened the project's communication strategy by effectively showcasing field-level impacts, innovations, and scalable models under OFSDP-II.

The concept development, scripting, and contextual framing of the documentaries were undertaken and supervised by the Project Management Unit (PMU) in collaboration with a professional external production agency. The final outputs, comprising activity-based documentary films, were showcased during the 14th National Workshop of JICA Assisted Forestry Projects in India. During the workshop, the Hon'ble Minister formally unveiled the flagship documentary on OFSDP-II.

Simultaneously, the PMU provided continuous technical and facilitation support to the Divisional Management Units (DMUs) for documentation of best practices and key project milestones. Consequently, several DMUs have initiated systematic compilation of project interventions, including success stories, case

studies, and distinctive field-level experiences, in customized documentation formats. These initiatives are aimed at strengthening project visibility, promoting knowledge dissemination, and enhancing stakeholder engagement across multiple platforms.



14th National Workshop of JICA Assisted Forestry Projects in India organised by OFSDP-II as Host State

- Honourable Minister Shri Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia inaugurated 14th National Workshop of JICA Assisted Forestry Projects in India
- National Workshop on JICA Forestry Projects Highlights Wood Transformation and Industry Linkages as Pillars for a Green Economy

The 14th National Workshop of JICA Assisted Forestry Projects officially commenced today at the Hotel Mayfair Convention in Bhubaneswar. Centered on the timely theme, "Future Ready Forestry: Climate Resilience, Digital Transformation & Sustainable Wood Economies," the event marks a significant milestone in the national dialogue regarding the integration of technology and sustainability within India's forestry sector. The three-day workshop, running from February 11th to 13th, is jointly organized by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Shri Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia, the Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha. In his opening address, the Minister emphasized the critical role that healthy forest ecosystems play in addressing the global climate crisis, ensuring ecological security, and sustaining the livelihoods of millions. He specifically highlighted the transformative impact of international cooperation, extending his gratitude to the Government of Japan and JICA for their continued commitment to protecting India's natural heritage and its most vulnerable populations.

During his keynote, the Hon'ble Minister stressed that the partnership has been instrumental in safeguarding the interests of tribal communities, Scheduled Castes, and backward classes. As the OFSDP Phase-II nears



its completion in March 2027, he issued a call for continued collaboration, expressing his expectation for a Phase-III implementation. He noted that such support is vital for Odisha to meet the developmental milestones set for “Viksit Odisha 2036” and for the broader vision of “Viksit India 2047.”

The inaugural session was attended by a distinguished assembly of senior policymakers and international experts. Key addresses were delivered by Mr. Vineet S. Sarin, Chief of Development Operations at JICA India, and Mr. Wakamatsu Eiji, Senior Representative of JICA India. They were joined by Shri K.B. Singh, Inspector General (EAP) for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and Dr. K. Murugesan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Odisha and Shri G. Rajesh, Additional PCCF (Projects) & Project Director (OFSDP). Together, these leaders set the stage for three days of intensive strategic planning focused on digital transformation and resilient forestry management.

The second day of the 14th National Workshop of JICA Assisted Forestry Projects in India focused on the critical transition toward a resilient and green wood economy. Organized by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) under the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the event took place at the Hotel Mayfair Convention. The day's deliberations centered on strengthening sustainable wood supply systems, promoting forest certification, and expanding agroforestry to meet both domestic and global demands.

Speaking as the Chief Guest at the valedictory session, Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma, Principal Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha, underscored the power of coordinated efforts. He noted that the workshop demonstrated how collaboration between states and international partners like JICA can accelerate India's journey toward a climate-resilient forestry sector. Shri Sharma also interacted with community members from Vana Surakshya Samiti (VSS) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), reiterating Odisha's commitment to livelihood support initiatives and ecological restoration.

In the presence of Shri Wakamatsu Eiji, Senior Representative of JICA India, the outcomes of the workshop were presented by Shri Siddharth Parameswaran, Development Specialist at JICA India. He identified climate adaptation, wood transformation, and digital transformation as the cornerstones of future cooperation. He emphasized that continued focus will be placed on co-creation and innovation with Japanese experts and the private sector to ensure mutual benefits for both nations within the evolving landscape of Official Development Assistance.

A central theme of the proceedings was the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration involving state governments, research institutions, and industry partners. Experts participated in a thematic discussion on Wood Transformation and Forest Certification, highlighting how frameworks like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and PRAMAAN are essential for the future of wood as a sustainable commodity. These certification mechanisms are viewed as vital links between rural smallholders and responsible supply chains, ensuring market credibility while boosting local livelihoods.

Technical sessions showcased innovative practices and scalable models from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha. These included the application of advanced genetics in plantation forestry and the adoption of modern wood processing technologies, such as Cross Laminated Timber (CLT). Furthermore, participants emphasized that digital public infrastructure developed within the forestry sector should function as integrated decision-support systems rather than standalone platforms, ensuring interoperability to improve long-term planning and policy outcomes.

The valedictory session, which featured a Guest of Honour address by Dr. K. Murugesan, PCCF & Head of Forest Force, was opened by Shri G. Rajesh, Project Director of OFSDP, and concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Swayam Mallick, Joint Project Director.



The workshop was attended by the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCFs), DFOs-cum-DMU Chiefs, representatives from agencies like IISc, KFRI, TERI, BCG, field staffs of the project, members of Vana Suarakhya Samiti (VSS) and other stakeholders.

10.5 Branding and positioning of OFSDP-II during 2025-26

10.5.1 Participation of SHGs in Adivasi Mela 2025-26: A Milestone in Community Engagement and Livelihood Promotion

The participation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under OFSDP-II and AJY in the Adivasi Mela 2025-26 marked a significant achievement in promoting community involvement and enhancing livelihoods. Within a limited timeframe, critical arrangements were successfully made, underscoring the efficiency and commitment of the implementing teams.

As part of the livelihood component of OFSDP-II, the involvement of SHGs in sales and promotional activities at the state level contributed visibly to the income enhancement of participating community groups. Coordination with the Adivasi Tribal Livelihoods Centre (ATLC), the event organizers, led to the prompt allocation of stalls and approval for maximum member participation. SHGs from various OFSDS divisions were mobilized effectively and on short notice.

OFSDS successfully participated in the State Level Adivasi Mela 2026 organized by the Academy of Tribal Language & Culture (ATLC), under the ST & SC Development, Minority and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Government of Odisha, held at Unit-I Adivasi Ground, Bhubaneswar from 26th January to 5th February 2026. Four core stalls were allotted to OFSDS for showcasing and promoting products developed by SHGs supported under OFSDP-II and AJY initiatives. A total of 34 participants representing 10 SHGs from 10 divisions actively participated in the mela in two batches, including 20 SHG

members and 14 supervising project personnel. The event provided a significant platform for product promotion, market linkage, cultural representation, and livelihood enhancement for tribal and forest-dependent communities across Odisha.

During the 11-day event held the SHGs achieved a collective business turnover of approximately ₹25,22,412 lakhs with limited time and space allotted proving the market potential and community enterprise capacity.



10.5.2 OFSDS participated in 17th State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair 2024-25 and adjudged as the Best Stall for the FIFTH time in row.

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) participated in the 18th State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair 2025, held from 10th to 16th December 2025 at the IDCO Exhibition Ground, Bhubaneswar. The fair was organized by the State Medicinal Plant Board, Government of Odisha, and continued for seven days.

The exhibition-cum-sale counter witnessed active participation from twelve Territorial Forest Divisions under the OFSDP-II, Ama Jangala Yojana (AJY) and OFSDS-OMBADC projects. The OFSDS stall, representing OFSDP Phase-II and AJY, was inaugurated by Shri Satyabrata Sahu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, FE&CC Department, in the presence of Shri Suresh Kumar Panth, PCCF & HoFF, and Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS, PCCF (Projects) & Project Director, OFSDS.

The stalls of OFSDS showcased various project activities and achievements through informative exhibits and product displays. A total of 12 Self Help Groups (SHGs) from 12 Forest Divisions operating under OFSDP-II, AJY, and OFSDS-OMBADC participated in the event. 42 members representing SHGs and Vana Surakhya Samitis (VSSs) from forest divisions including Athamallik, Baripada, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Ghumusur-South, Ghumusur-North, Jharsuguda, Karanjia, Rairangpur, Keonjhar, Rourkela, and Bonai took part in the seven-day fair.



10.5.3 Sameekshya 2025: Livelihood, Sustainability & Way Forward organized by Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) organized a day-long State Level Conference, 'Sameekshya, 2025' on the theme "Livelihood, Sustainability & Way Forward under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP, Phase-II)" on 19th November 2025 at Hotel Crystal Crown, Bhubaneswar. The conference was organized under the aegis of the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forestry Force, Odisha, Shri Suresh Pant, IFS, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief



Wildlife Warden, Odisha and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Kendu Leaves), Odisha joined as Guests of Honour. Dr. K Murugesan, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Projects) and Project Director, OFSDS was the chief convenor of the Workshop.

In his address as the Chief Guest, Shri Suresh Pant, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, stated that livelihood promotion of the forest fringe community was the essential key for effective conservation and management of forest resources. He emphasized that the project's focus on long term sustainability of livelihood interventions and the development of community based multi-product clusters at forest division levels will build a strong foundation for community development in near future. He lauded the project's efforts in converging various Government schemes and preparing for the next phase of operations, ensuring long-term benefits for the forest fringe dwelling communities.

In his opening address, Dr. K Murugesan, IFS, PCCF (Projects) & Project Director, OFSDS, said that the primary objective of OFSDP Phase-II has been to achieve sustainable forest management while ensuring long-term livelihood security to the forest fringe communities. He highlighted that 1211 number of Vana Surakhya Samitis (VSSs) and 10 Eco- Development Committees (EDCs) identified by the project are actively engaged in forest protection and plantation activities along with livelihood promotion. He informed that funds amounting to Rs. 704.55 Crores have been mobilized through convergence of schemes of 37-line departments and organisation benefitting 25.80 lakh persons in the project area till date. In addition, the provision of Revolving Fund (RF) under the project to the community has led to remarkable growth in income generating activities. According to him, till date through this project total Rs 28.85cr of Revolving Fund have been disbursed out of which Rs 20.85cr has already been refunded. Total number of beneficiaries are 45, 759 out of which 9117 are male and 36, 672 are female. Total 3013 number of SHGs have been benefited. Additionally, 476 CIGs, 12,621 PoPs have availed of this facility during this financial year. Dr. Murugesan emphasized that this "Sameekshya" is designed to consolidate these achievements and brainstorm a strategic "Way Forward" to Phase-III of the project.

"Sameekshya, 2025" comprised of three technical sessions. An overview of the best practices in OFSDP-II was presented by Shri Swayam Mallick, IFS, JPD (PI&LCD) of OFSDS. The Technical Session I on the theme "Sustainable Livelihood: Achievements and Vision- Case Studies," featured expert presentations from TRIFED, KIIT-TBI, KVIC, SFDA Kerala, and NABARD. Technical Session II dealt with "Sustainable Livelihood: Successful Achievements of OFSDP-II," was marked by the presentations by the DFO-cum-Divisional Management Unit (DMU) Chiefs of Dhenkanal, Athamalik, and Jharsuguda Forest Divisions. The third and final session focussed on "Project Consolidation of Phase-II and Way Forward to Phase-III of OFSDP," was conducted as a brainstorming session chaired by the Project Director to strategize for the project's next phase.

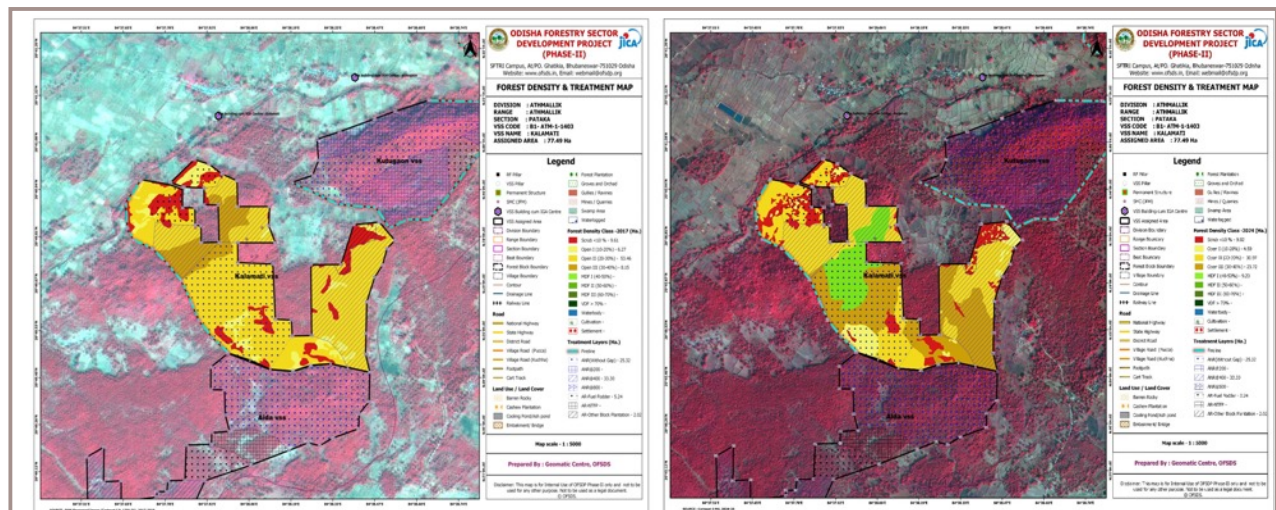
The workshop was attended by the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCFs), DFOs-cum-DMU Chiefs, representatives from agencies like TRIFED, KVIC, and NABARD, field staffs of the project, partner-NGOs, officials from Project Management Unit (PMU), Experts from Project Management Consultants (PMC), Management and Marketing Support Agency (MMSA) and members of Vana Suarakhya Samiti (VSS) and other stakeholders. Vote of thanks to the participants and the invited guests was offered by Sri Yasobanta Beriha, Deputy Project Director (A&F), OFSDS.

11.1 Project Background and Objective

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project - Phase II (OFSDP-II), implemented from 2017 to 2027 under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society stands as a flagship initiative aimed at enhancing forest ecosystem services and bolstering the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities through participatory forest management. A cornerstone of this project's accountability framework is the rigorous monitoring of forest health and canopy density dynamics to evaluate the long-term impact of silvicultural and joint forest management interventions within the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) assigned areas. This report details the comprehensive spatial analysis conducted during the 2025–2026 assessment period across various VSS units, serving as a critical progress evaluation by comparing current forest status against the 2017–2018 project baseline.

11.2 Multi-Sensor Analytical Stratification of Batch-I VSS Units

To achieve maximum cartographic precision across varying landscape complexities, the assessment of the Batch-I VSS units was stratified using a dual-layered satellite remote sensing approach. For a core group of approximately 270 out of the 355 Batch-I VSS areas, the project utilized very high-resolution (VHR) pan-sharpened multispectral imagery from the Cartosat-2S and Cartosat-3 satellites. GIS Analysts manually traced and digitized the boundaries of eight distinct, highly granular forest density classes for the 2017 baseline, repeating the exact manual digitization vector workflow on the 2024 imagery to calculate precise polygon area deltas. This meticulous method successfully mapped micro-level degradation and improvement trends by tracing inter-class transitions; for instance, in the Kalamati VSS of the Athmallick Division (Fig. 1), the analysis captured a sharp contraction in scrub and open spaces corresponding to a direct expansion in Moderate Forest. A consolidated overview of these vector-based forest cover change findings across all 270 VSS units is compiled in Figure 2.



Forest Cover Change Analysis in the Year 2017-2024															
Name of VSSs	VSS Code	Year	Assigned Area (Ha.)	Scrub	Open I	Open II	Open III	MDF I	MDF II	MDF III	VDF	Waterbody			Grand Total
Kalamati	B1-ATM-1-1403	2017	77.49	9.61	6.27	53.46	8.15								77.49
		2024		9.02	4.59	30.97	23.72	9.20						77.49	
Total			77.49												
Images Used 2017:		PAN Sharpened Image (Cartosat- I & LISS-IV), 2017-18													
Images used 2024:		Cartosat- 3 MX, 2024-25													

Fig: 1 Kalamati VSS

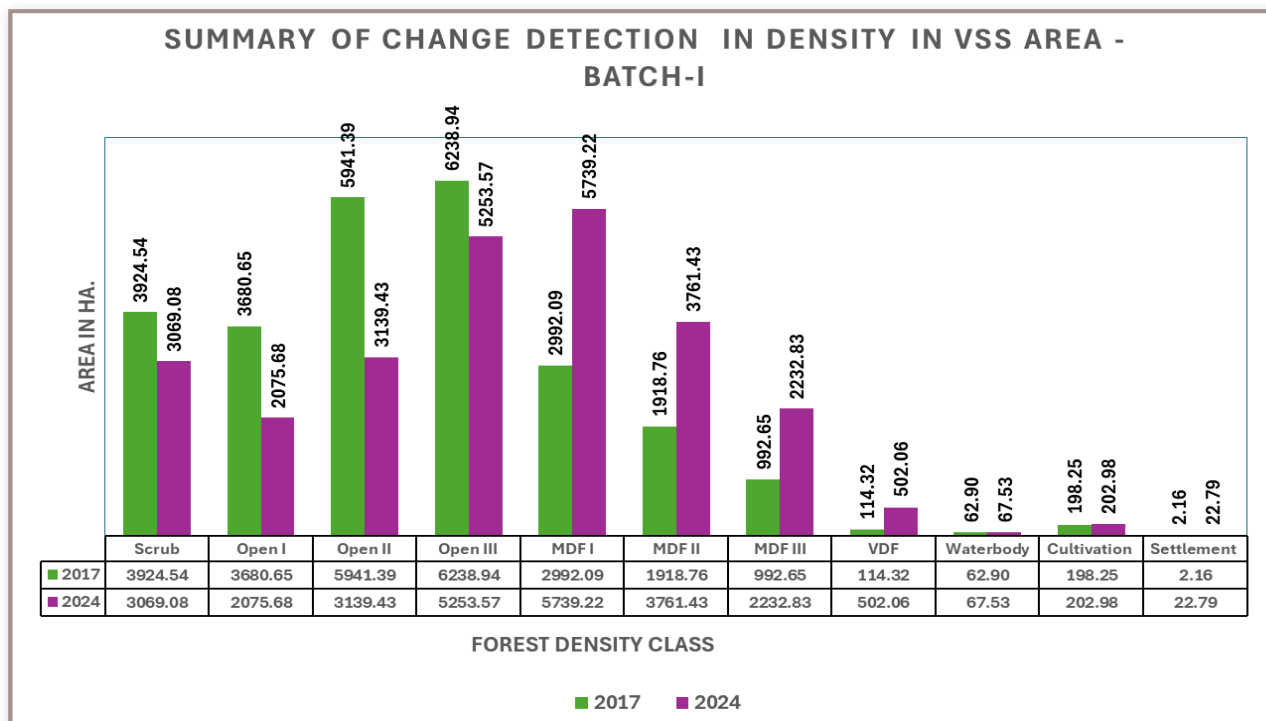


Fig: 2 Summary of Change Analysis in VSS Area using Digitization

Concurrently, for the remaining 85 VSS units where continuous raster tracking was more ecologically appropriate, the project deployed multispectral LISS IV satellite imagery. Using a traditional Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) approach, these spaces were classified into five standard canopy tiers: Dense Forest, Moderate Forest, Open Forest, Scrub, and Water. This dual-sensor evaluation across the 2017–2018 baseline and 2024–2025 assessment periods revealed that the vast majority of the monitored VSS footprint experienced a highly positive structural transition, migrating upward into higher-density canopy classes rather than stagnating in degraded scrub or open-canopy categories.

11.3 The Three Methodological Pillars of Forest Health Monitoring

Beyond broad change detection via manual vector digitization, the project's long-term forest health monitoring framework is anchored upon an advanced, three-pronged geospatial analytical framework.

- **Qualitative Analysis:** Classification of Forest Cover Density to track the successional transition of canopy cover between different classes using NDVI thresholds.

- **Quantitative Analysis:** Evaluation of the specific areas of forest degradation and improvement through comparative NDVI analysis and precise pixel-count methodologies.
- **Advanced Vegetation Modelling:** Computation of Fractional Vegetation Cover (FVC) to analyse shifts in mean vegetation percentages across pixels, providing a granular view of biomass density and determining the exact greening and browning percentage at a pixel level.

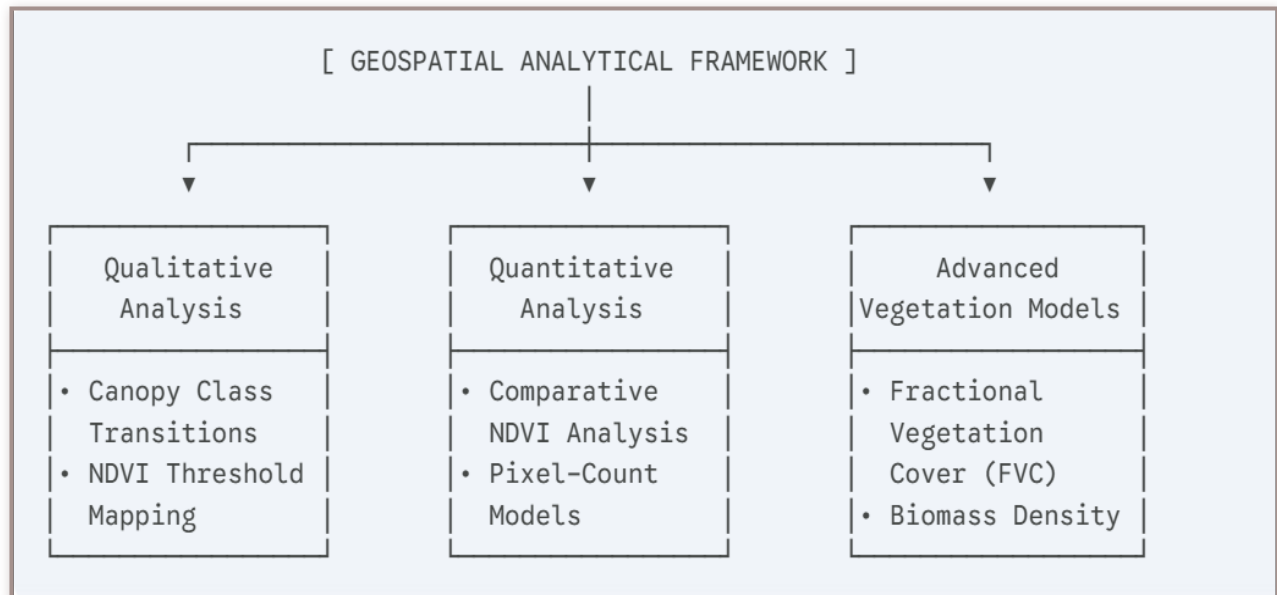


Fig: 3 Geospatial Analytical Framework

11.4 Satellite Data Acquisition and Pre-Processing Protocols

To execute this advanced raster framework with high scientific fidelity, the study utilized radiometrically corrected multispectral data from the LISS IV (Linear Imaging Self Scanning-4) sensor onboard the Resourcesat-2 and Resourcesat-2A satellites, procured directly from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) in Hyderabad. Featuring a native spatial resolution of 5.8 meters, the LISS IV data was systematically resampled to a uniform 5.0-meter grid to maximize spatial alignment and analytical precision during multi-temporal overlay operations. The spectral analysis targeted Band 2 (Green), Band 3 (Red), and Band 4 (Near-Infrared), which are optimal for isolating chlorophyll absorption and cellular leaf structure scattering. To capture peak vegetation vigor and minimize seasonal moisture or cloud interference, imagery was strictly acquired within the post-monsoon window (October to December) for both the 2017–2018 baseline and the 2024–2025 assessment cycles. The geographic scope of this pixel-specific health auditing covers 74 targeted VSS locations distributed across the Ujalpur (Batch-I), Lephripara (Batch-II), and Sundargarh (Batch-III) Field Management Units (FMUs) within the Sundargarh Division. During the initial pre-processing phase, raw multi-band scenes underwent strict geometric alignment, followed by the generation of False Colour Composites (FCC) using the 'Merge' or 'Build Virtual Raster' toolsets within the QGIS desktop environment. These spectral composites enhanced the visual contrast of active canopy structures against bare ground, establishing a flawless baseline for subsequent mathematical differentiation.

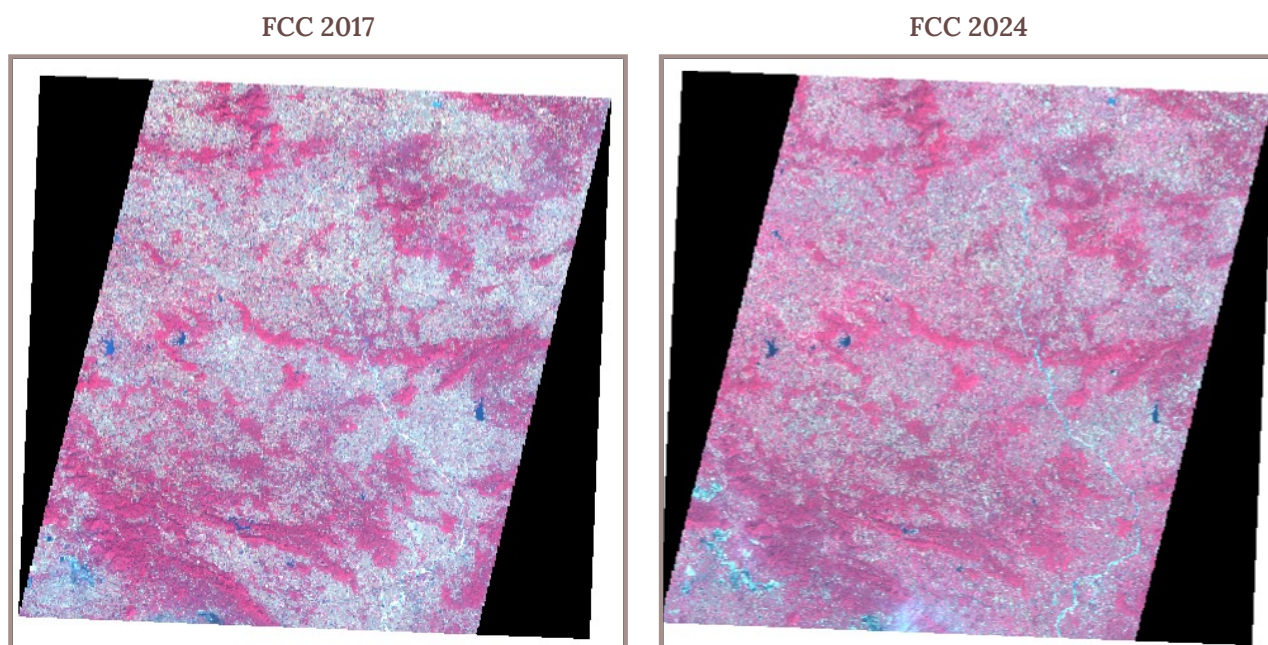


Fig: 4 Layer stack raster

11.5 Preliminary Qualitative Assessment via False Colour Composites (FCC)

The preliminary assessment of forest health was initiated through a comparative visual analysis of layer-stacked multispectral imagery. The 2017 project baseline observations were predominantly characterized by a high prevalence of dull grey and cyan tones. In a False Colour Composite (FCC) environment where the Near-Infrared (NIR) band is assigned to the red channel, these grey signatures indicate an absence of robust chlorophyll activity, proving that vegetation was sparsely distributed, fragmented, or significantly degraded at the launch of the project.

In stark contrast, the 2024 assessment observations displayed a dramatic landscape-scale shift, with vibrant crimson and deep red hues covering the vast majority of the study area. This intense red coloration serves as a direct spectral signature of high NIR reflectance driven by healthy cellular leaf structures, visually confirming a massive, widespread transition toward dense, healthy, and contiguous canopy cover across the project-assigned Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) perimeters.

11.6 Quantitative Canopy Indexing and Institutional Alignment

While the visual transition from grey to red in the satellite composites provided a compelling qualitative indicator of forest recovery, the project enforced strict scientific quantification to eliminate human subjectivity and establish a verifiable record of success. To achieve this, the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) was calculated for both the 2017 baseline and 2024 assessment raster datasets using the normalized ratio of the Red and Near-Infrared bands:

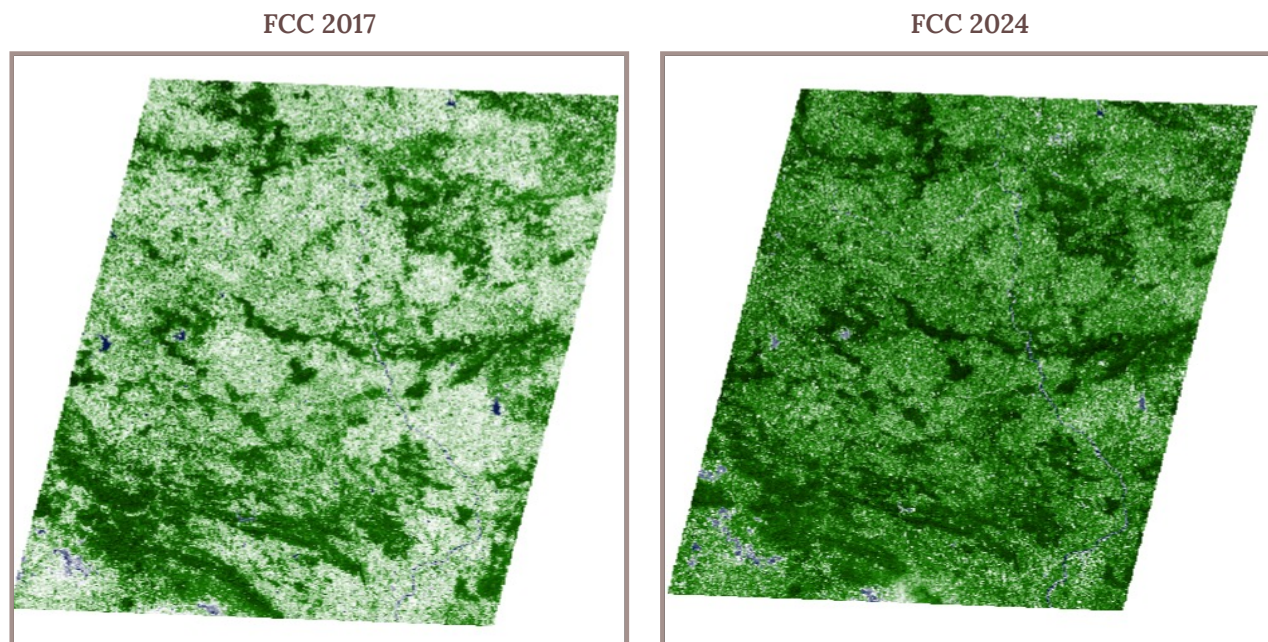


Fig: 5 NDVI Rasters

The resulting continuous index layers were clipped tightly to the official administrative vector boundaries of the 74 VSS locations within the Sundargarh Division, ensuring that all subsequent density classifications and pixel-level change detections were confined strictly to the project-assigned perimeters. To maintain rigorous institutional compliance and standardize reporting, the continuous NDVI raster values were categorized into five distinct land cover and canopy density classes in strict alignment with the Forest Survey of India (FSI) engineering standards:

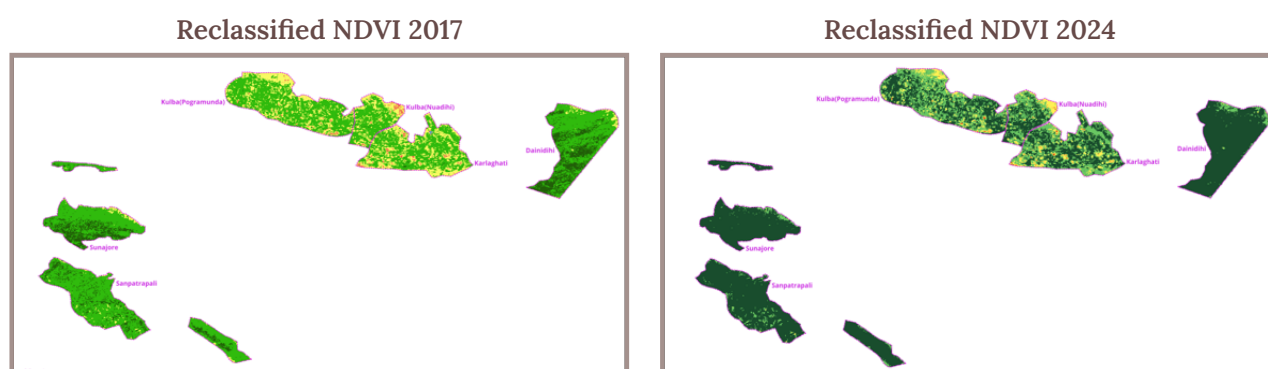


Fig: 6 Clipped NDVI Rasters

Table:1 Forest Canopy density Class

Class	NDVI Range	Canopy Density	Description
Water	-1.0 to 0.0	-	Low or negative values typical of water bodies.
Scrub	0.0 to 0.2	< 10%	Areas with sparse or highly stunted vegetation.
Open Forest	0.2 to 0.4	10% – 40%	Re-greening areas with visible ground gaps.
Moderate Forest	0.4 to 0.6	40% – 70%	Healthy forest with medium canopy closure.
Dense Forest	0.6 to 1.0	> 70%	Climax vegetation with high biomass density.

This transition from qualitative visual interpretation to formal index-based calculation ensured that the expansion of red areas observed in the 2024 imagery was accurately converted into a legally auditable, hectare-wise measurement of forest cover expansion.

11.7 Division-Wide Forest Canopy Cover Dynamics

The data generated across the 74 VSS locations of the Sundargarh Division reveals a highly significant, positive successional transition in forest density over the seven-year monitoring period. The project's targeted silvicultural treatments and community vigilance successfully catalysed a macro-scale shift where large tracts of degraded land graduated into higher-density canopy brackets.

Table:2 Comparative Summary of Forest Cover (in Ha.) in Sundargarh

Forest Class	2017-18 Area	2024-25 Area	Net Change	% Change
Dense Forest	1,405.10	5,324.29	+3,919.19	+278.9%
Moderate Forest	5,102.52	1,671.53	-3,430.98	-67.2%
Open Forest	587.16	113.56	-473.59	-80.7%
Scrub	17.60	3.52	-14.08	-80.0%
Water	0.62	0.05	-0.57	-91.7%
Total Area Analysed	7,112.99	7,112.97	-	-

Quantitatively, the Dense Forest category expanded dramatically from a baseline of 1,405.10 hectares in 2017–18 to 5,324.29 hectares in 2024–25, representing a net increase of 3,919.19 hectares, or an extraordinary growth of 278.9%. This massive expansion was primarily driven by the maturation of lower forest tiers, as evidenced by the corresponding decline in other categories. The Moderate Forest category decreased from 5,102.52 hectares to 1,671.53 hectares (a net change of -3,430.98 hectares, or -67.2%), confirming that 3,431 hectares successfully migrated from a moderate canopy into a dense canopy classification, signifying a substantial improvement in forest health and biomass accumulation. Concurrently, the Open Forest category decreased from 587.16 hectares to 113.56 hectares (a net change of -473.59 hectares, or -80.7%), while Scrub lands dropped from 17.60 hectares to 3.52 hectares (a net reduction of -14.08 hectares, or -80.0%). The Water class recorded a minor shift from 0.62 hectares to 0.05 hectares (-0.57 hectares, or -91.7%), bringing the total analyzed area to a consistent 7,112.99 hectares for the baseline and 7,112.97 hectares for the assessment. This division-wide reduction of over 80% in both scrub and open forest areas highlights the success of secondary succession and the stringent protection measures undertaken by the VSS communities.

The results confirm a massive successional shift: large tracts previously classified as "Scrub" or "Open Forest" in 2017 have effectively transitioned into the "Moderate" and "Dense" categories. This provides a robust, evidence-based audit trail of forest restoration and carbon sequestration gains across the Sundargarh Division.



11.8 Field Management Unit (FMU) and VSS Insights

A detailed granular analysis conducted at the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) level for the three key Field Management Units (FMUs)—Ujalpur, Lephripara, and Sundargarh—reaffirmed this positive trend across individual project batches. The empirical evidence generated through spatial analysis demonstrates a highly correlated inverse relationship between dense canopy expansion and moderate canopy contraction, proving that intermediate forest structures are steadily maturing into climax ecosystems.

Table:3 Comparative Summary of Forest Cover in 3 FMUs, Sundargarh

FMU (Batch)	Dense Area 2017 (Ha)	Dense Area 2024 (Ha)	Net Dense Increase (Ha)	Moderate Area Change (Ha)
Ujalpur (Batch-I-30 VSS)	561.75	3,151.66	+2,589.91	-2,251.50
Lephripara (Batch-II 34 VSS)	699.81	1,587.40	+887.59	-781.77
Sundargarh (Batch-III 10 VSS)	143.54	585.23	+441.69	-397.72

Ujalpur (Batch-I) recorded the highest absolute gains, moving from a baseline Dense Forest area of 561.75 hectares in 2017 to 3,151.66 hectares in 2024, yielding a massive net increase of 2,589.91 hectares of dense canopy, while its Moderate Forest area reduced by 2,251.50 hectares. This advanced state of restoration is reflected across 95% of the VSS units within Ujalpur, suggesting that the longer duration of protection since 2018–19 is yielding substantial ecological dividends. At the micro-level, Sanpatrapali VSS experienced a phenomenal surge in Dense Forest from 27.46 hectares in 2017 to 180.76 hectares in 2024, as almost the entirety of its 161.18 hectares of Moderate Forest successfully closed its canopy. Similarly, in Brahmanmara VSS, dense forest cover expanded by 151.40 hectares, reflecting an exceptionally high survival rate of target plantations and robust natural regeneration.

Lephripara (Batch-II) demonstrated a highly comparable trend of improvement across its constituent VSS areas. Within this FMU, the Dense Forest footprint expanded from 699.81 hectares in 2017 to 1,587.40 hectares in 2024, securing a net dense increase of 887.59 hectares, balanced by a Moderate Forest reduction of 781.77 hectares. Locally, in Dhangergudi VSS, the Dense Forest area nearly tripled by moving from 37.30 hectares to 93.91 hectares over the study period. Sarafgarh VSS also recorded prominent success, documenting a net increase of 47.56 hectares in the Dense category alongside a significant reduction in its baseline scrub and open areas.

Sundargarh (Batch-III), despite belonging to a later project implementation batch, is already showing rapid and significant density upgrades that validate the scalability of the project interventions. The FMU's total Dense Forest area grew from 143.54 hectares in 2017 to 585.23 hectares in 2024, representing a net increase of 441.69 hectares, while its Moderate Forest canopy shifted by -397.72 hectares. At the VSS level, Dhudi Nuagaon VSS increased its Dense Forest cover by 61.90 hectares, successfully transitioning virtually all of its 2017 Moderate Forest land into a high-density canopy. Furthermore, in Gaikanpali VSS, the dense forest area grew exponentially from a mere 5.71 hectares in 2017 to 56.91 hectares in 2024.

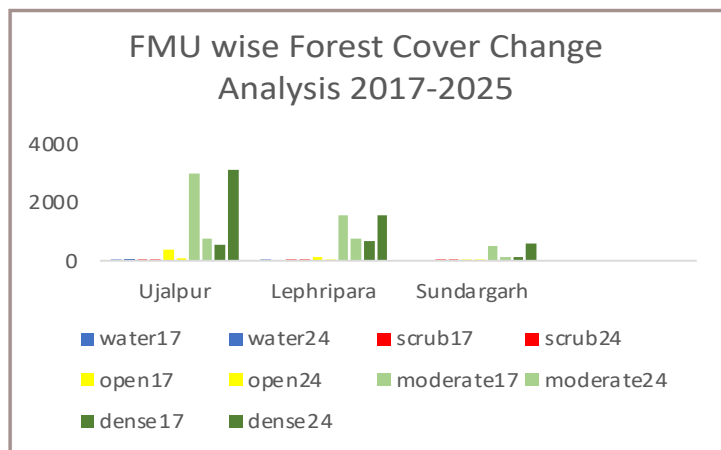


Fig: 7 FMU wise Analysis

Ultimately, this uniform, cross-batch reduction in Scrub and Open forest areas indicates that forest patches across the Sundargarh Division are becoming increasingly contiguous. This canopy consolidation is fundamentally vital for bolstering local biodiversity, enhancing microclimate moisture retention, and verifying a robust, evidence-based audit trail of forest restoration and carbon sequestration gains for OFSDP-II.

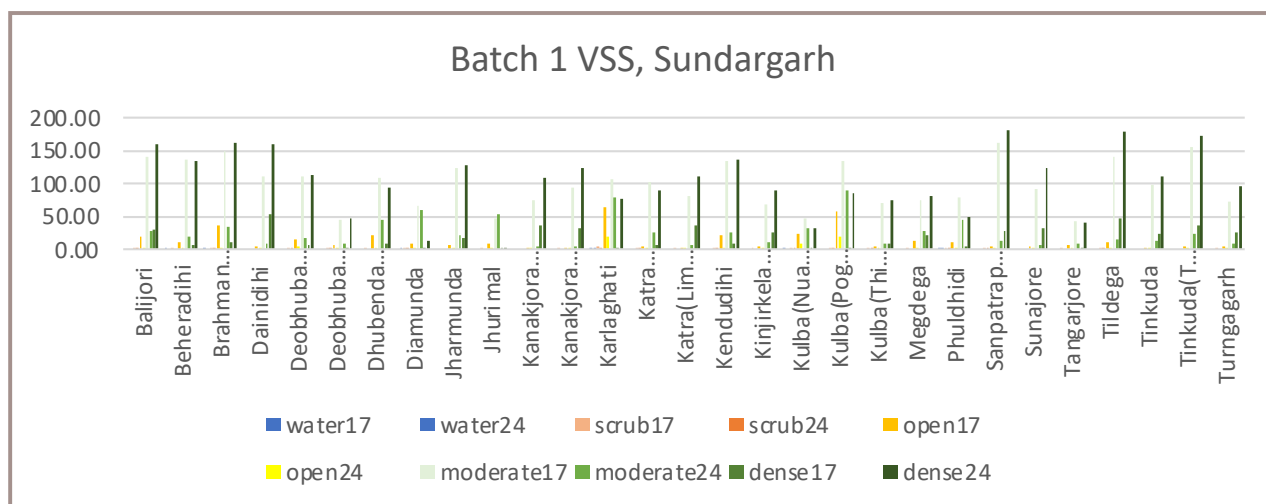


Fig: 8 Forest Canopy change analysis in VSS, Ujalpur Range, Sundargarh

11.9 Quantitative Change Detection via Vectorized Pixel-Count Methodology

While broad classification into density classes like Dense, Moderate, and Open provides a valuable snapshot of regional forest status, it fails to capture subtle adjustments caused by shifting atmospheric conditions or pinpoint the exact geographic coordinates where micro-level degradation or growth occurs. To overcome these limitations, a quantitative change detection model driven by an NDVI pixel-count methodology was implemented to measure the area of improvement. Moving beyond simple class comparisons, this approach executes a pixel-by-pixel mathematical subtraction across perfectly co-registered 2017–18 and 2024–25 LISS IV datasets, where each individual pixel represents a 5.8m times 5.8m ($25m^2$) physical footprint on the ground.

The quantitative approach involves:

1. **Normalization:** Ensuring both 2017–18 and 2024–25 datasets are perfectly co-registered.

2. **NDVI Differencing:** Calculating the “NDVI Difference Map” using the formula:

$$\text{Delta NDVI} = \text{NDVI}_{2024} - \text{NDVI}_{2017}$$

3. **Pixel Counting:** Quantifying the exact number of pixels that show a positive, neutral, or negative change.

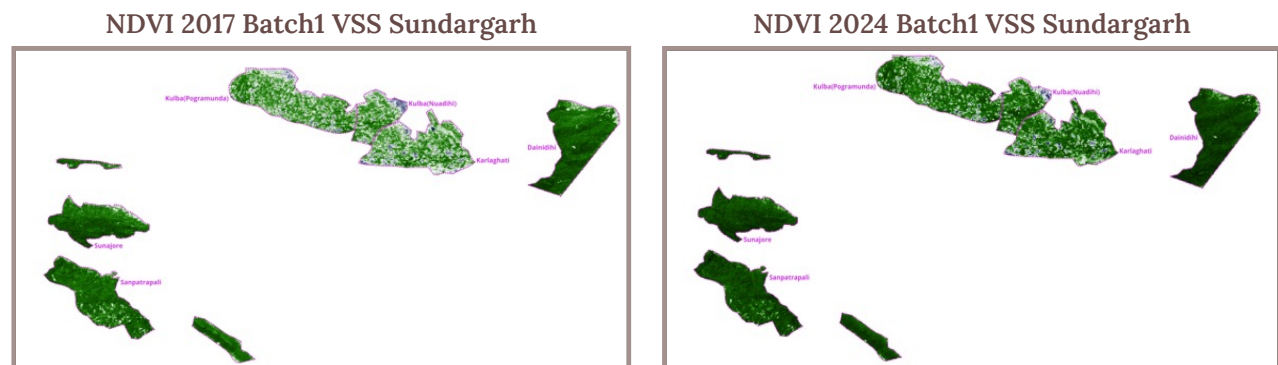


Fig: 9 NDVIs for Pixel Count Methodology

By analyzing the Delta NDVI values, the forest dynamics were categorised into precise quantitative zones i.e positive zone, no change zone or negative zone. By counting number of specific pixels and multiplying by the pixel area (25 squaremeter) of each zone, the exact acreage of forest loss or thinning was calculated.

- **Significant Improvement -Positive Impact(Delta NDVI > +0.1):** Pixels where vegetation vigor has increased significantly, typically corresponding to successful plantation growth or assisted natural regeneration (ANR).
- **Stable / No Change (-0.05 < Delta NDVI < +0.05):** Areas where the forest canopy remains intact and healthy, indicating successful protection.
- **Degradation / Stress Negative Impact(Delta NDVI < -0.1):** Areas showing a decline in chlorophyll activity.

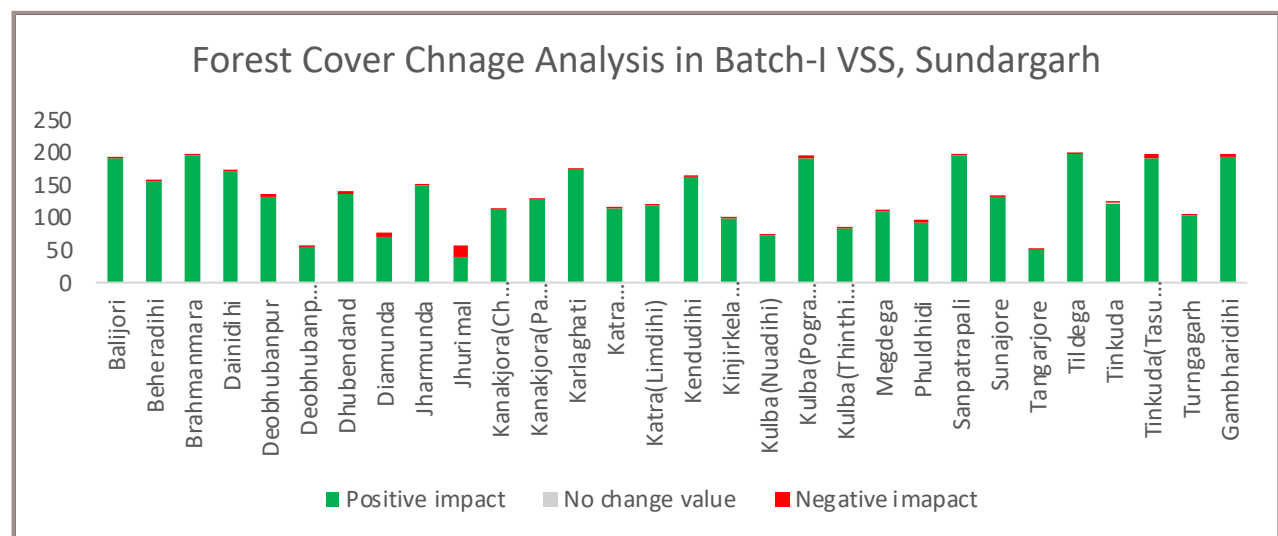


Fig: 10 Positive Impact Pixel count and area in Batch-I VSS of Ujalpur FMU, Sundargarh

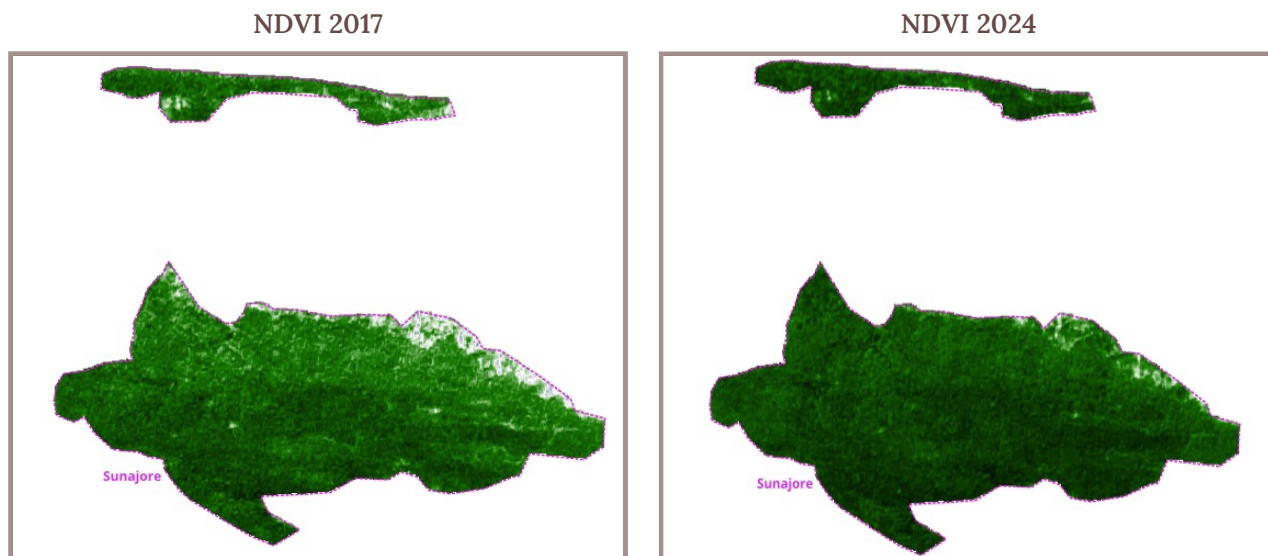


Fig: 11 NDVIs of Sunajore VSS for Pixel Count

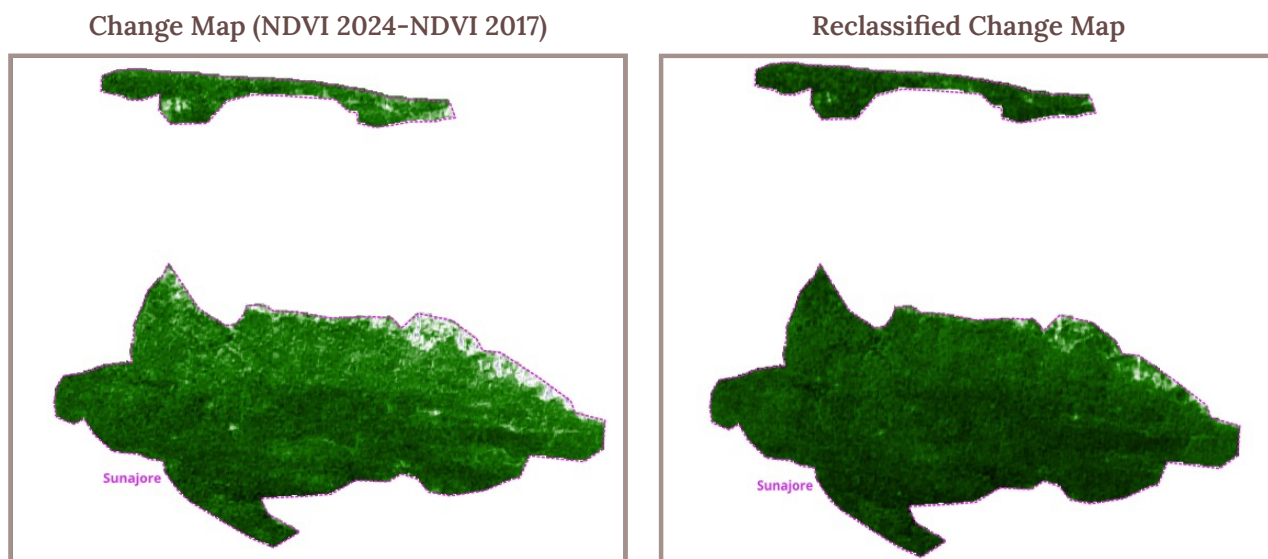


Fig: 12 Change Map of Sunajore VSS

Fig: 13 Reclassified Map of Sunajore

Applying this pixel-level analysis across the Sundargarh Division provides an objective, highly granular view of the 7,112-hectare study area. Initial spatial evaluations revealed that approximately 74% of the total pixels exhibited a positive trajectory, verifying that the broad increases in dense forest are backed by a widespread rise in ecosystem health. Concurrently, the quantitative shift from moderate to dense canopies was validated by a mean NDVI increase of 0.22 across transition zones, indicating a major expansion in leaf area index (LAI). Furthermore, this rigorous mathematical approach identified localized degradation hotspots totalling to 4.2 hectares. Though these small-scale footprints are often too minor to alter an entire VSS-level classification, detecting them is critical for discovering localized pest outbreaks, tracking illegal felling or grazing, and transitioning forest management from basic observation to targeted field interventions.

When extending this advanced spatial analysis to a broader scale, covering 343 out of the 355 Batch-I Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) locations, the data demonstrated excellent field-level success. Specifically,

a definitive positive growth trend was recorded in 210 of these monitored units, meaning that 61% of the evaluated VSS areas achieved verifiable improvements in canopy density and ecological productivity.

To establish a mathematically rigorous basis for these localized transitions, a digital image processing histogram analysis was conducted to measure the exact frequency distribution of the DeltaNDVI pixel layers. Totalling to 2,860,351 processed pixels over an operating footprint of 7,151.13 hectares, the frequency data was organized into three distinct “Impact Categories” to accurately measure project trajectory:

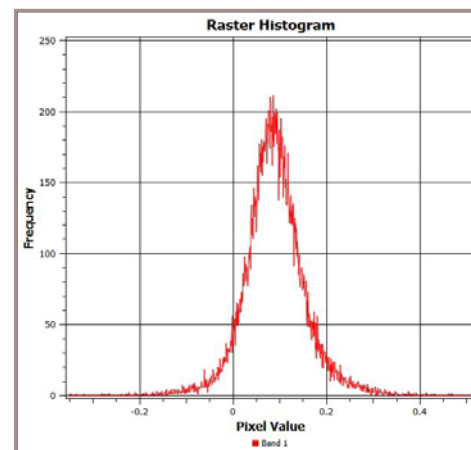


Fig: 14 Histogram of 74 VSS

Table:4 Pixel area of Positive and Negative impact, Sundargarh

Histogram Class	Impact Category	Pixel Count (Frequency)	Area (Hectares)	Percentage (%)
HISTO_3	Positive Impact (Improvement)	2,701,413	6,753.62	94.44%
HISTO_2	No Change (Stability)	1,455	3.75	0.05%
HISTO_1	Negative Impact (Degradation)	157,483	393.76	5.51%
Total		2,860,351	7,151.13	100%

The histogram analysis provides three critical insights that prove the success of the project’s interventions while helping pinpoint areas that need attention. First, it shows a dominant recovery trend across the landscape, as the data is heavily skewed toward the positive impact category (HISTO_3), meaning over 94% of the forest area experienced a clear increase in biomass and plant health between 2017 and 2025. Second, it helps identify vulnerable area by revealing 393.76 hectares of negative impact (HISTO_1), showing that about 5.5% of the area is actually facing stress or degradation. Third, this method offers precision and scalability because it measures exact areas for every individual VSS; for instance, in Brahmanmara VSS, it precisely flagged 2.44 hectares of degraded land out of a 197-hectare total, allowing VSS to step in with field interventions plan exactly where needed.

11.10 Spatial Aggregation via Grid Vegetation Change Index (GVCI)

Building directly upon the granular precision of the pixel-count methodology, the Grid Vegetation Change Index (GVCI) was applied to standardize and track spatial trends across fragmented area. While individual pixel tracking excels at detecting immediate, isolated changes, GVCI aggregates this sub-pixel data into a uniform grid network overlaid across the VSS administrative boundaries. By calculating the ratio of improving pixels to degrading pixels within each localized grid cell, the index generates a normalized, continuous metric of environmental performance. This spatial aggregation smooths out minor seasonal anomalies and sensor noise, making it easier to distinguish between temporary moisture variations and permanent ecological shifts. A GVCI map was prepared to visualize the result. Negative values (Red) indicate d vegetation loss or land degradation, Zero values (Yellow) indicated stable environments and Positive values (Green) indicated growth, reforestation, or agricultural intensification.

The integration of the Grid Vegetation Change Index (GVCI) across the three key Field Management Units of Ujalpur, Lephripara, and Sundargarh provides a standardized, grid-by-grid mathematical assessment of how forest canopy density evolved between 2017 and 2024. By transitioning from simple pixel tallies to localized grid tracking, the spatial analysis effectively smooths out minor seasonal anomalies and maps true ecological change across the division. The dataset reveals a powerful, uniform trend of vegetation recovery. Across all analyzed grid sectors within these FMUs, the baseline values (mean2017me) consistently sat in the 0.50 to 0.59 range, signalling a moderately healthy but fragmented landscape at the start of the project. By 2024, the final index values (ndvimean24) climbed to a robust 0.60 to 0.67 tier, indicating that these grids have mathematically transitioned into the high-biomass "Dense Forest" category (>70% canopy closure under FSI standards).

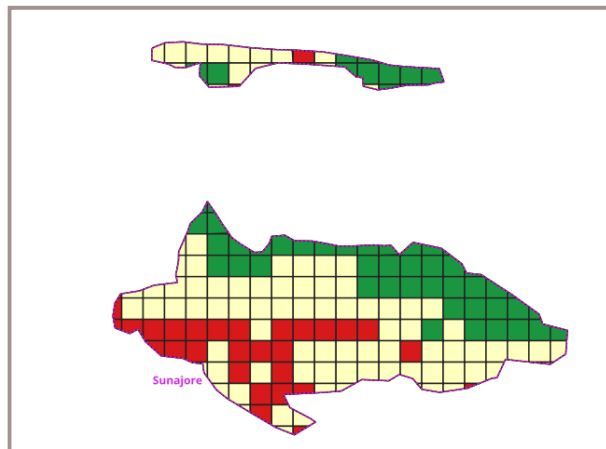


Fig: 15 GVCI map of Sunajore VSS

The GVCI values directly quantify this transformation, capturing significant localized growth trajectories across the division. In the core intervention zones of Ujalpur (Batch-I), where community-led protection has been active the longest, individual grid squares show remarkably steady vegetation change index scores between 11.8% and 14.9%. This reveals an evenly distributed, stable expansion of the leaf area index rather than isolated clusters of growth. Similarly, the grid cells representing Lephripara (Batch-II) show clear canopy consolidation, with specific zones experiencing index surges as high as 15.46%, highlighting rapid secondary succession and the closure of former canopy gaps. Even within the later-stage grids of the Sundargarh FMU (Batch-III), the GVCI effectively maps an ongoing upward trajectory, with index increases consistently hovering around 12.83%. This widespread grid-level progress confirms that the participatory management model has successfully pushed the landscape out of a moderate status into a continuous, resilient climax canopy, giving forest managers a reliable, scientific hotspot map to track permanent biomass gains.

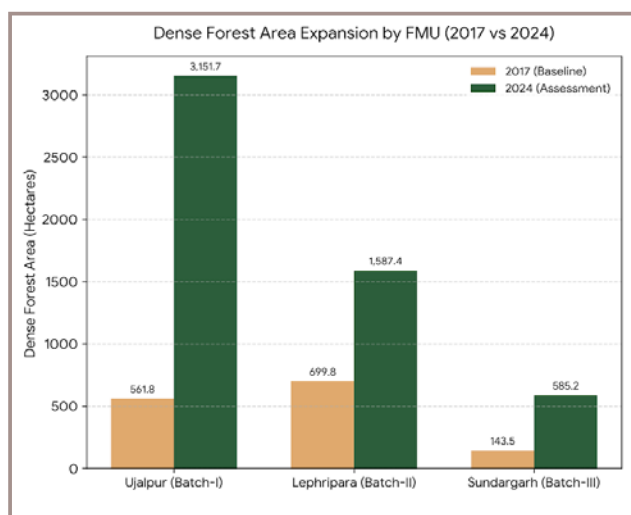


Fig: 16 GVCI FMU Wise

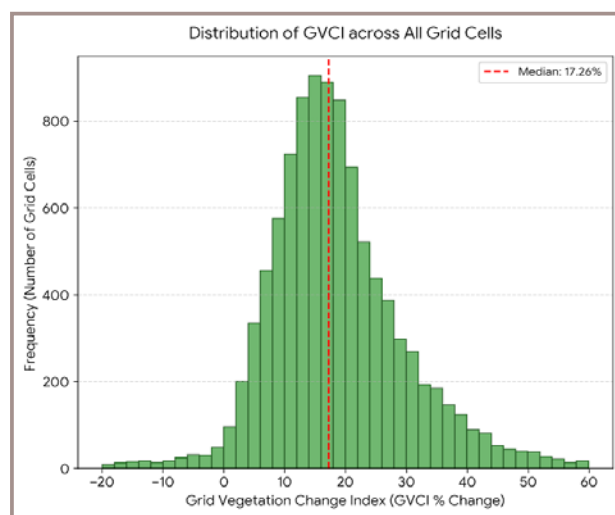


Fig: 17 Histogram of GVCI

Ultimately, integrating GVCi into the geospatial workflow bridges the gap between individual pixel-level data and broad, division-wide management, providing an objective tool for prioritizing local field interventions and predicting long-term canopy sustainability.

However, despite its precision, pixel count and GVCi-based NDVI change analysis encounters technical bottlenecks, particularly an inability to map subtle shifts along borderline class boundaries. Furthermore, simple pixel counting treats each 25m² area as a uniform block that is entirely “improving” or “degrading,” failing to differentiate between green leaves, woody stems, or bare earth within the pixel itself and GVCi only translates raw, pixel-level data into a standardized grid network and tracks localized trends. To overcome this limitation and measure sub-pixel greening or browning, Fractional Vegetation Cover (FVC) modelling was implemented.

11.11 Advanced Vegetation Modelling via Fractional Vegetation Cover (FVC)

Unlike the relative Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Fractional Vegetation Cover (FVC) is a direct physical parameter that measures the ratio of the vertically projected vegetation area to the total reference area. It provides a real-world percentage 0% to 100% of green vegetation within every single pixel. This analysis was systematically extended across 74 Batch-I VSS area in the Sundargarh Division. the Dimidiate Pixel Model, which assumes a linear relationship between pixel reflectance and vegetation proportion was utilized to convert relative NDVI values into physical FVC percentages,

$$FVC = \{[NDVI - NDVI_{soil}] / [NDVI_{veg} - NDVI_{soil}]\}^k$$

Here, NDVI_{soil} represents completely bare soil extracted from the 5th percentile of the image histogram, NDVI_{veg} represents 100% vegetation cover from the 95th percentile, and k is a curvature factor set to 2 to account for non-linear light scattering in heterogeneous forest landscapes. To ensure ecological accuracy and eliminate outliers from water bodies or spectral noise, a final clamping conditional statement was applied in the QGIS Raster Calculator to restrict all output values strictly between 0 and 1:

Formula: (“FVC@1” < 0) * 0 + (“FVC@1” > 1) * 1 + (“FVC@1” >= 0 AND “FVC@1” <= 1) * “FVC@1”.

The resulting FVC data was reclassified into standard ecological density classes to translate decimal values into meaningful categories using the Reclassify by Table tool in QGIS:

Table:5 FVC data was reclassified into standard ecological density

FVC Value	Percentage	Interpretation
0.0 - 0.1	0% - 10%	Bare Soil / Urban / Water: Virtually no vegetation.
0.1 - 0.3	10% - 30%	Low Cover: Sparse grasslands, shrublands, or degraded land.
0.3 - 0.6	30% - 60%	Medium Cover: Open woodlands, mixed agriculture, or shrubby terrain.
0.6 - 0.8	60% - 80%	High Cover: Dense forests, healthy crops, or lush grasslands.
0.8 - 1.0	80% - 100%	Extremely High: Closed-canopy rainforests or peak-growth plantations.

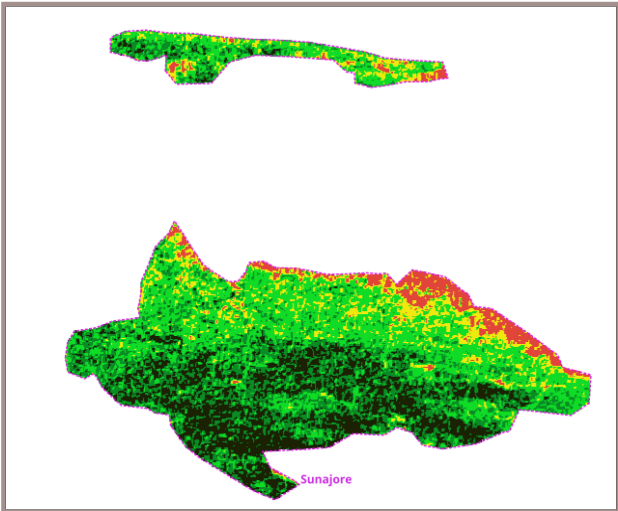


Fig: 18 FVC 2017 of Sunajore

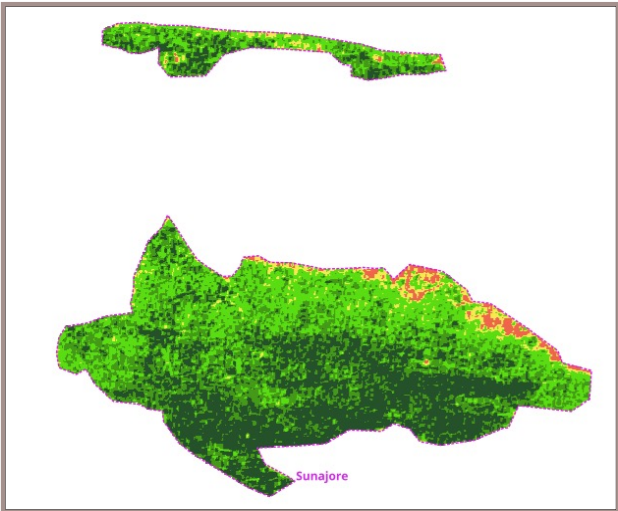


Fig: 19 FVC 2024 of Sunajore

Generating these maps for 2017 and 2024 allowed for the visual identification of environmental features, where colors transitioned from red (no vegetation) and yellow (low cover) to light, medium, and deep green (extremely high dense vegetation).

11.12 Structural Reclassification of Fractional Vegetation Cover (FVC) Tiers into eight density class

To overcome the technical bottleneck where broad canopy definitions mask subtle ecological adjustments, the physical FVC datasets were reclassified into eight highly granular density classes designed specifically to isolate small numerical shifts across borderline categories. Under this refined monitoring framework, the lowest vegetation spectrum is segmented into Bare Soil or Scrub (or), Open Forest-I (or), and Open Forest-II (or), enabling field managers to track initial successional recoveries and sparse re-greening with high spatial sensitivity. The critical intermediate canopy is split into three distinct, narrow brackets—Moderate Cover-I (or), Moderate Cover-II (or), and Moderate Cover-III (or)—ensuring that incremental accumulations in biomass and leaf area index are mathematically captured before a pixel completely graduates into a major structural class. The peak vegetation tiers are categorized into Dense Cover (or) and Extremely Dense Cover (or) to isolate mature, closed-canopy climax blocks and peak-growth community plantations. By narrowing these analytical ranges, the model successfully resolves borderline spectral mixing, allowing OFSDP-II to identify early warning signs of degradation or positive restoration impacts at the exact sub-pixel boundary level.

Table:6 FVC dataset reclassified into Eight granular density class

FVC Value	Percentage	Interpretation
0.0 - 0.1	0% - 10%	Bare Soil or Scrub
0.1 - 0.2	10% - 20%	Open Forest-I
0.2 - 0.3	20% - 30%	Open Forest-II
0.3 - 0.4	30% - 40%	Moderate Cover-I:

FVC Value	Percentage	Interpretation
0.4 - 0.5	40% - 50%	Moderate Cover-II:
0.5 - 0.6	50% - 60%	Moderate Cover-III:
0.6 - 0.8	60% - 80%	Dense Cover:
0.8 - 1.0	80% - 100%	Extremely Dense Cover:

Forest density class was classified into 8 class for each VSS and analysed the small shifts. For instance, the classification in Sunajore is given Fig: 20.

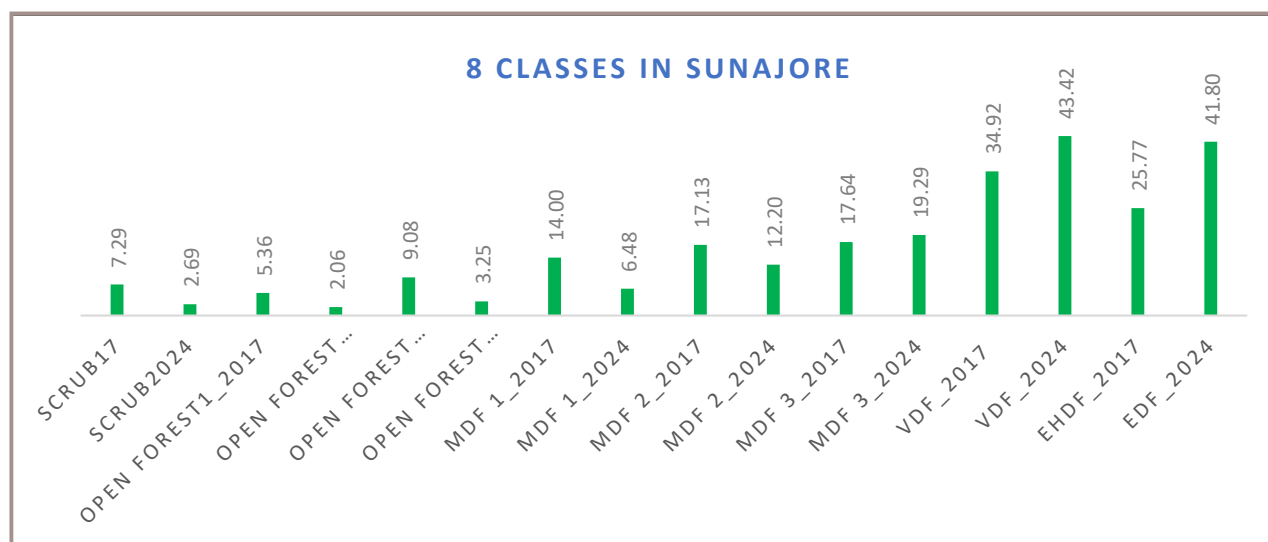


Fig: 20 Eight Forest Density Class of Sunajore VSS

The granular assessment across the Field Management Units (FMUs) confirms a synchronized, upward ecological succession across all eight Fractional Vegetation Cover (FVC) density classes:

Ujalpur FMU (Batch-I): Driven by the longest duration of community protection, baseline footprints under Bare Soil or Scrub and Open Forest-I effectively collapsed. These degraded spaces migrated directly into intermediate Moderate Cover-II and Moderate Cover-III tiers, triggering a major wave of sub-pixel restoration that ultimately expanded the highest Dense Cover and Extremely Dense Cover classes.

Lephripara FMU (Batch-II): Targeted silvicultural treatments successfully targeted historical fragmentation bottlenecks. Fragmented patches previously classified as Open Forest-II experienced rapid canopy closure and consolidated into the moderate cover bands, while established moderate zones matured directly into continuous, high-biomass Dense Cover.

Sundargarh FMU (Batch-III): Despite being the youngest implementation batch, this unit already shows rapid, early-stage recovery. Instead of remaining stagnant in low-density baselines, vulnerable pixels demonstrated high-frequency upward adjustments, shifting into Moderate Cover-I and Moderate Cover-II tiers.

This uniform, cross-FMU shift away from degraded baselines and into intermediate and high-density FVC brackets validates the scalability of the participatory forestry model, proving that all target timelines are actively driving sub-pixel biomass intensification.

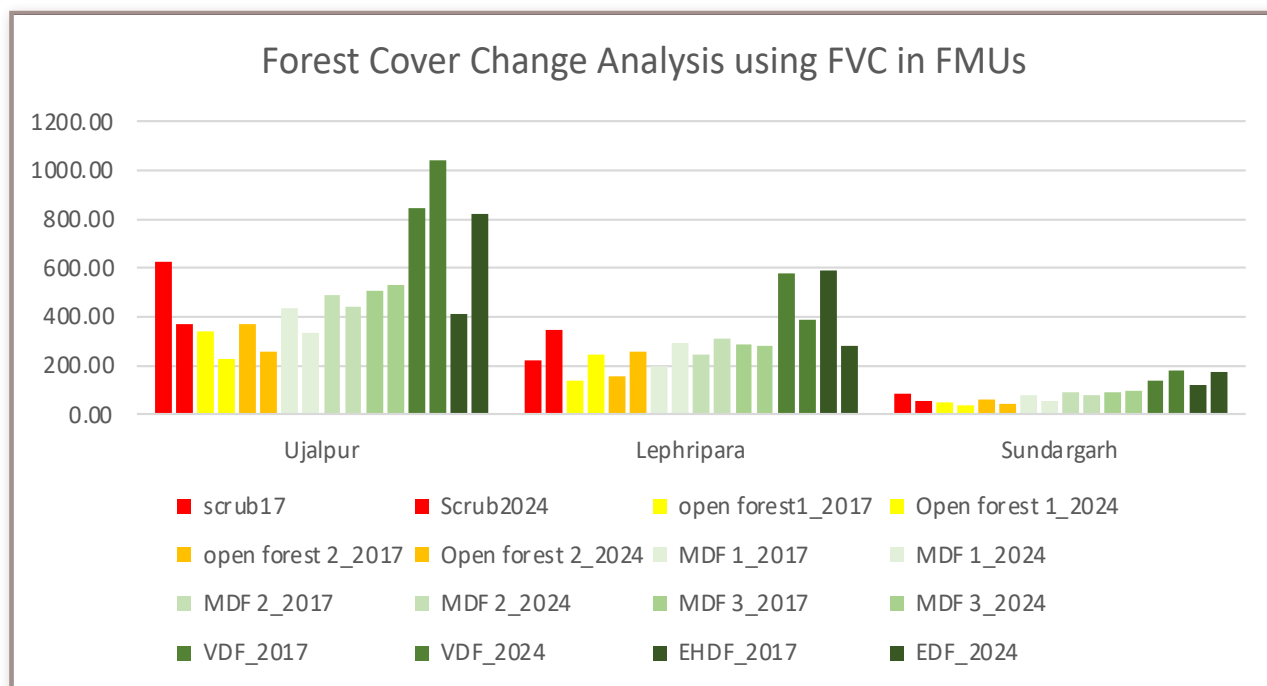


Fig: 21 Eight Forest Density Class in FMUs, Sundargarh

To mathematically quantify these visual shifts, the project applied the QGIS Zonal Statistics tool, overlaying VSS vector boundaries onto the FVC raster to aggregate pixel values into a single “Mean Vegetation Percent” for each area. Subtracting the 2017 baseline FVC from the 2024 FVC isolated clear dynamics: positive changes revealed successful reforestation, while negative changes flagged deforestation or drought stress. Division-wide, approximately 50% (37 out of 74) of the monitored VSS areas achieved positive outcomes. The shift in vegetation percent in Batch-I VSS of Ujalpur Range of Sundargarh Division is given below.

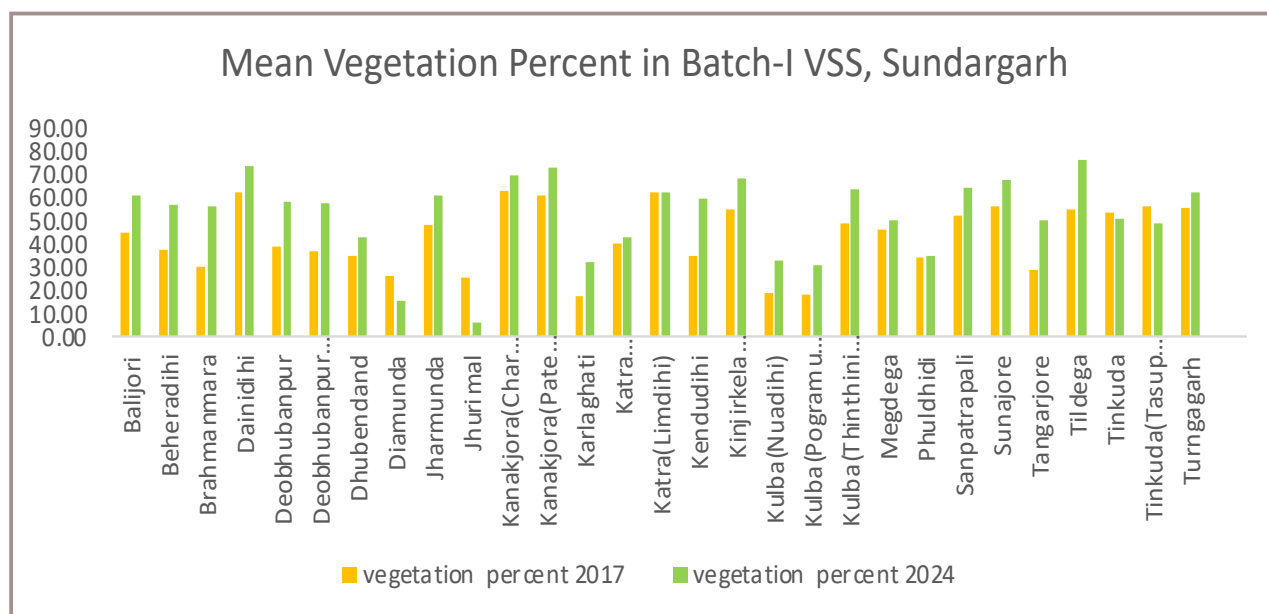


Fig: 22 Mean Vegetation Percent of 2017 & 2024 in Batch-I VSS of Ujalpur Range



By integrating pixel-based change detection with mean FVC statistics, a robust, dual-layered framework is established for spatial analysis. This methodology enhances impact monitoring by measuring the actual intensification of biomass rather than just the raw area of improvement. It also empowers climate-adaptive management, since FVC's high sensitivity to greenness allows managers to distinguish permanent degradation from temporary moisture stress, enabling early aridity and drought detection. Ultimately, this evidence-based approach provides a standardized reporting baseline that proves current VSS batches are trending toward long-term sustainability, ensuring that forest recovery is validated by both a larger green footprint and healthier canopy structures.

11.13 Validation and Geometric Refinement of Farm Forestry Plantation Polygons

Apart from the primary canopy dynamics and health monitoring assessments conducted this year, the GIS Cell executed a comprehensive spatial validation and restructuring of the project's Farm Forestry plantation assets. Spanning an area of approximately 1,450 hectares, the raw geographic boundaries representing Farm Forestry plantations established across the 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 planting cycles were systematically reformed to align tightly with the actual limits of verified, survived plantations. Done in close coordination with local field units, this rigorous spatial correction serves as the foundational physical baseline required to anchor the project's specialized carbon credit and carbon offset initiatives.

To manage this extensive data influx with high technical fidelity, the GIS Cell streamlined the processing of field data collected by operators using handheld GPS devices and custom mobile GIS applications. This field operation systematically captured high-accuracy boundary node coordinates for 1,820 designated carbon offset plots across the division. The resulting massive spatial point dataset was structured into a standardized tabular schema, with each entry mapped to a unique Plot ID and assigned a sequential node ordering to guarantee path continuity.

This structured tabular matrix enabled automated batch importation into the QGIS desktop environment. Leveraging built-in spatial processing workflows, the team executed a dual-stage vector synthesis pipeline:

1. **Points to Path:** Individual coordinate nodes were linked sequentially based on their unique attributes and node order to create seamless, closed polyline vectors.
2. **Lines to Polygons:** The newly generated polyline boundaries were instantly converted into 1,820 discrete, airtight land-use plot polygons in a single processing run, eliminating hours of manual tracing.

To satisfy the rigorous international verification and auditing standards demanded by carbon credit registries, the GIS Cell subjected the generated vector layer to strict topology validation protocols. Utilizing the QGIS Topology Checker, the team enforced mandatory geometric rules, specifically Must Not Overlap and Must Not Have Gaps. This automated auditing process successfully captured and eliminated underlying spatial slivers, intersecting boundaries, and double-counting risks across adjacent properties.

The final, high-fidelity vector dataset establishes a transparent, legally defensible spatial baseline required to verify environmental additionality, biomass permanence, and leak-proof carbon accounting. This clean, auditable database provides the definitive physical boundary verification submitted for the project's annual compliance report.

11.14 Geospatial Operations and Thematic Map Generation for Decision Support

In the current reporting cycle, the GIS Cell significantly scaled up its cartographic and spatial modelling operations, preparing an array of advanced thematic maps to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and support new project proposal submissions. By converting raw statistical data into high-fidelity geographic layers, these map products provided senior management and policy planners with localized, visual intelligence. This capability enables them to evaluate ongoing project impacts, locate infrastructural or environmental gaps, and design targeted interventions for future development proposals.

To optimize demographic tracking and aid in comprehensive report preparation, the project introduced high-resolution Dot Maps as a vital visualization tool for assessing the distribution of socio-economic beneficiaries across all Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) assigned areas. This advanced geospatial mapping technique plots granular population metrics directly over administrative forestry boundaries, assigning distinct cartographic markers to capture localized community structures at a single glance. Under this specialized rendering framework, the multi-layered spatial data is visualized as follows:

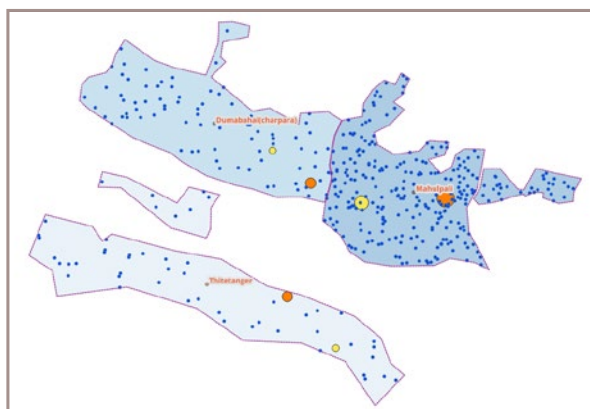


Fig: 7 FMU wise Analysis

- **Point-Density Demographics:** Each precisely positioned blue dot represents two individuals from the community, while orange and yellow dots represent the exact spatial density of Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) populations, respectively.
- **Choropleth General Layer:** Complementing these multi-colored point symbols, graduating shades of blue are utilized as a background choropleth layer to represent the overall population volume of the General Category.

By consolidating these complex demographic datasets into an intuitive spatial format, the MIS Section provides field managers and policy stakeholders with an immediate, evidence-based understanding of community profiles. This ensures that alternative livelihood interventions, joint forest management benefits, and targeted developmental funds are distributed equitably according to the specific needs of marginalized groups.

11.15 Mapping the Relationship Between Forest Biomass and NDVI

During this period, a key spatial analysis activity was conducted to match ground-level forest measurements with satellite data to see how well satellite greenness reflects actual forest growth. The GIS Cell compared tree data collected from field plots (biomass dataset, ORSAC) across the Sundargarh Division with the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) obtained from high-resolution satellite imagery. The analysis showed a strong, reliable link between the two indicators ($R^2 \geq 0.78$). Areas with high satellite greenness values ($NDVI > 0.65$) lined up perfectly with heavy, mature forests, while low values marked thin or degraded scrublands. By establishing this mathematical connection, the project can now

create accurate biomass and carbon storage maps for the entire division using satellite images alone. This reduces the need for expensive and time-consuming fieldwork and provides a clear, science-based method to report on forest recovery and carbon capture.

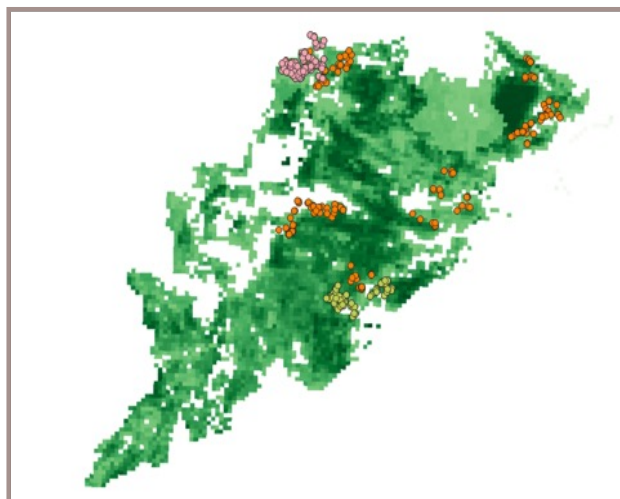


Fig: 24 Biomass Map of Odisha

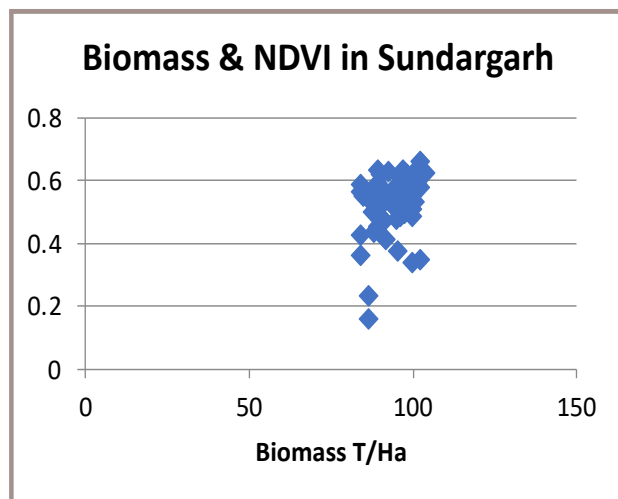


Fig: 25 Biomass Map and NDVI

11.16 Institutional Framework for Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESMSF & STFDPF)

To ensure strict adherence to international sustainability standards, the OFSDP-II project has operationalized a broad Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF) alongside a specialized Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependents Plan Framework (STFDPF). This dual-layered strategy is mandated under the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (2010), which dictate that project interventions must not exhibit any significant negative impacts on the local environment or surrounding social fabric. The ESMSF serves as the primary reference document outlining how ecological and social risk mitigations are integrated into daily field operations. Working in tandem with the STFDPF and related safeguard tools, this integrated framework concentrates on protecting the resource rights, cultural heritage, and traditional livelihoods of marginalized forest-dependent communities while driving landscape restoration.

The environmental safeguard assessment for the Annual Activity Report compiled by the MIS Section reveals highly positive milestones alongside targeted technical areas for improvement across the 12 project divisions. Performance was mathematically monitored using normalized multi-criteria compliance indices mapped directly onto a 0% to 100% scale across six core operational indicators. State-wide, the project achieved near-perfect enforcement under the Forest Protection head with a magnificent average score of 99.9%, driven by an absolute compliance rate of 100% in 11 out of 12 divisions, which proves the outstanding strength of community-led forest vigilance and controlled grazing systems. This is closely supported by the Forest Growth and silvicultural safeguards indicator, which maintains an exemplary state-wide average of 96.7%, verifying that the vast majority of target areas successfully prioritized indigenous species, utilized bio-fertilizers, and enforced proper plastic polybag disposal protocols. NTFP Livelihood Safeguards also recorded a robust average compliance of 90.9%, establishing that divisions like Boudh, Karanjia, and Subarnapur hit perfect 100% marks by effectively stabilizing community income models around sustainable harvesting thresholds and clean value-addition infrastructure.

Operational readiness under Fire Management and Community Development Infrastructure reflects stable progress but highlights room for ongoing training, scoring state averages of 82.9% and 81.3% respectively. Karanjia Division achieved a flawless 100% efficiency rating in fire protection planning and preemptive fireline tracing, while divisions like Ghumsur North and Subarnapur set the standard for mitigating construction dust and managing solid waste around rural infrastructure projects. In contrast, the Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) Management indicator emerged as the primary operational bottleneck across the state, recording the lowest global average of 60.8%. While Ghumsur North led this field with a highly commendable engineering compliance of 89.8%, significant performance gaps in Boudh (33.8%), Sundargarh (36.6%), and Baripada (40.4%) pull down the state index, indicating a clear need to accelerate the physical execution, maintenance, and de-siltation of earthen, stone, and concrete drainage-line treatment structures.

To visually synthesize these institutional dynamics, high-resolution analytical charts have been generated and compiled into the report. The first chart, presents a comprehensive compliance matrix cross-referencing each project division against the six safeguard heads, clearly showing the contrast between the dark blue bands of high compliance in protection and the lighter cells highlighting regional gaps. The second chart delivers a sorted horizontal summary of the state-wide averages for each core safeguard indicator, providing senior management with an immediate tool to prioritize resource distribution. Looking at the overall combined benchmarks across all categories, Karanjia (94.8%), Ghumsur North (92.9%), and Jharsuguda (90.9%) represent the top-performing operational divisions, whereas Rairangpur (74.9%) and Sundargarh (76.9%) have been flagged for immediate capacity-building field assistance to bridge localized infrastructure and water-harvesting engineering gaps.

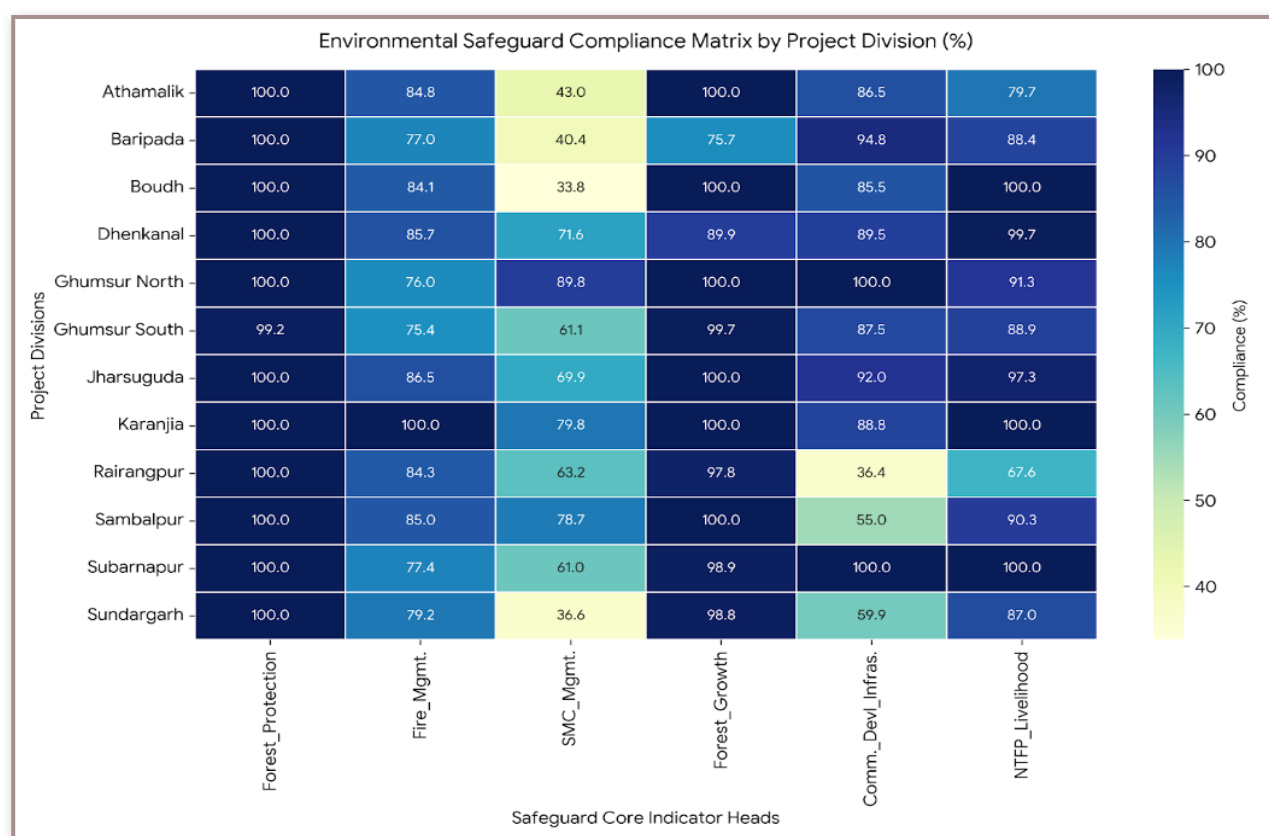


Fig: 26 Env. Safeguard heatmap

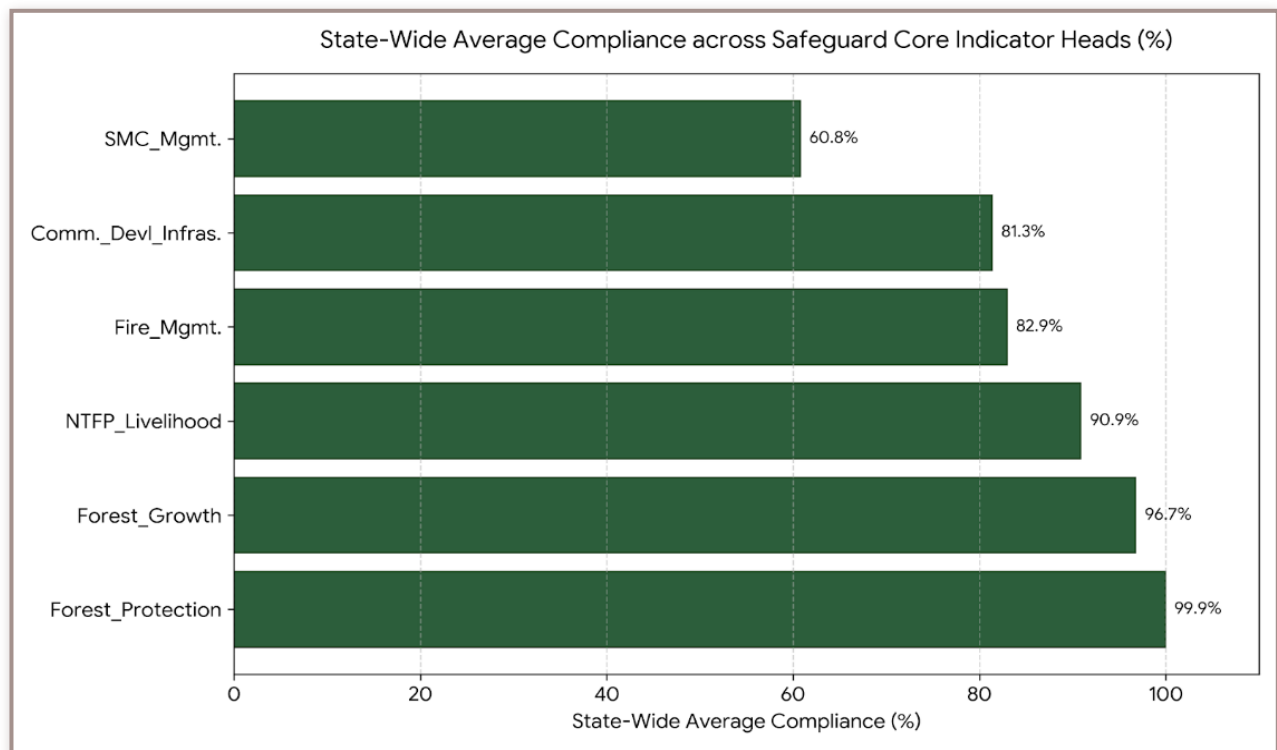


Fig: 27 Env Safeguard Averages

To complement these matrices and simplify multi-criteria comparisons against the key environmental safeguard indicators, specialized radar charts were generated for each division. These radar visualizations map division-specific performance across all axes simultaneously, allowing managers to instantly identify localized engineering strengths and prioritize field support to bridge water-harvesting and infrastructure gaps.

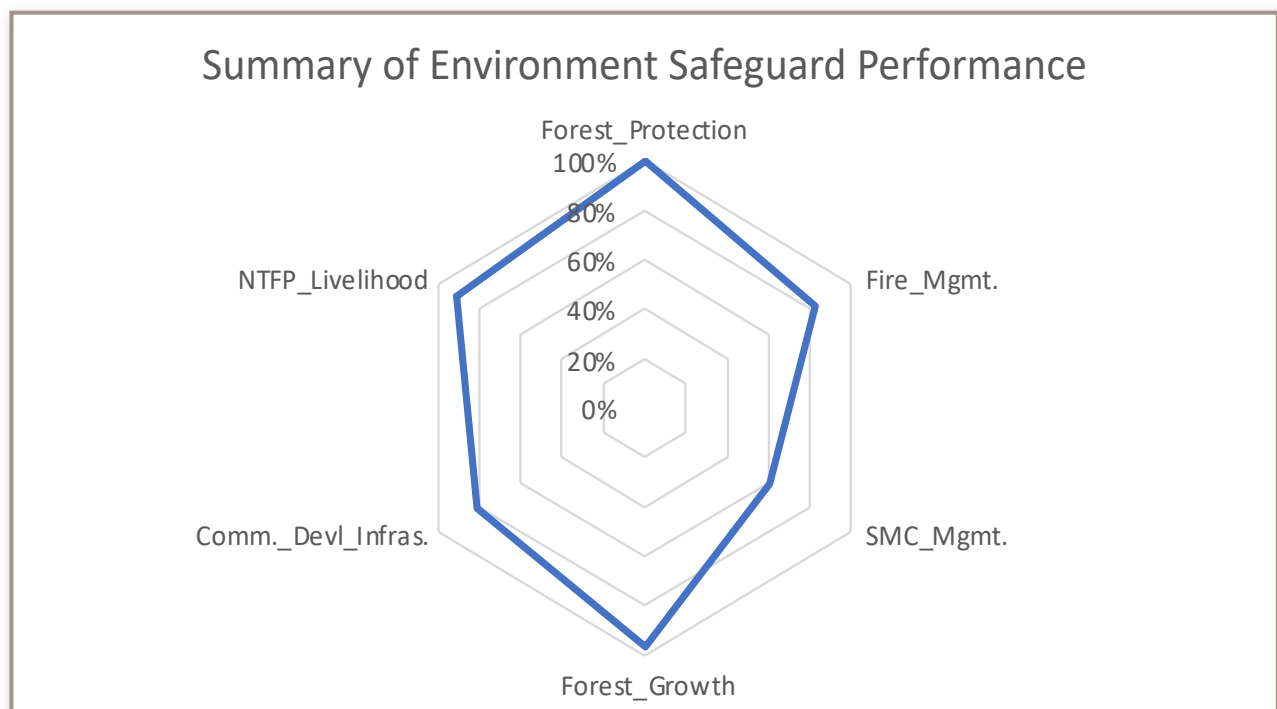


Fig: 28 Radar Chart of Environmental safeguard indicators

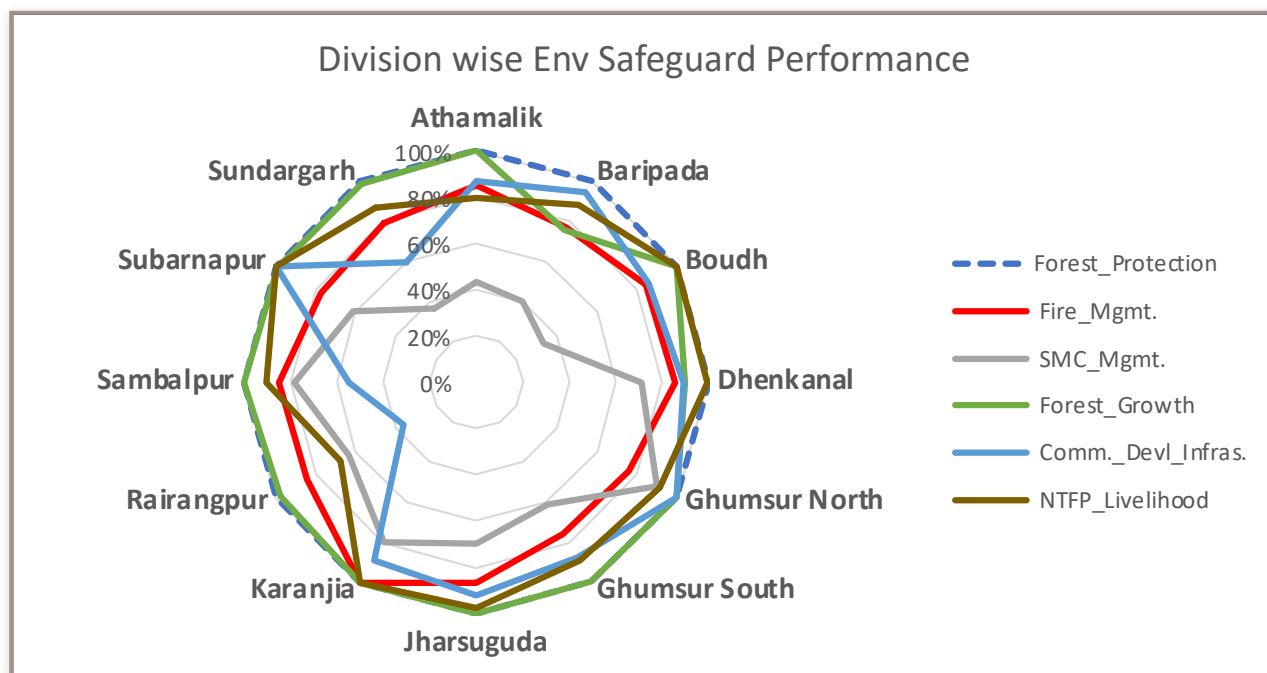


Fig: 29 Division wise performance

In conclusion, the spatial and institutional assessments conducted during the 2025–2026 reporting period highlight a highly successful phase of ecological recovery and community-led management under the OFSDP-II framework. By combining high-resolution satellite imagery from Cartosat and LISS IV sensors with advanced tracking tools like NDVI, Grid Vegetation Change Index (GVCI) and Fractional Vegetation Cover (FVC) modelling, this spatial analysis study has scientifically proved a massive, widespread improvement in forest canopy health. It is important to note that these sophisticated, multi-layered spatial analysis activities—including the sub-pixel FVC calculations, biomass correlation modelling, grid-level index tracking, and advanced demographic mapping were taken up on a pilot basis specifically for the Sundargarh Division study area. Following the highly successful validation of these advanced methodologies through ground truthing, the entire technical workflow is scheduled to be scaled up and implemented across all remaining project divisions within the current year.

Beyond tracking pilot forest growth, the project achieved critical operational milestones that establish a strong foundation for state-wide deployment. These include the precise validation of 1,450 hectares of Farm Forestry plots for future carbon credit initiatives and the creation of detailed socio-economic maps to ensure fair distribution of developmental benefits. Finally, evaluation of JICA's Environmental and Social Safeguards shows remarkable compliance, led by near-perfect scores in forest protection and growth, while identifying specific water-conservation intervention to focus on next. Together, these combined pilot activities establish a transparent, evidence-based track record of success, proving that the partnership between advanced space technology and local communities is ready to pave a reliable, state-wide path toward long-term forest sustainability and carbon capture across Odisha.

OFSDP-II Administration

The JICA supported Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) has been under implementation since 2017 as one of the key-projects being undertaken by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) which is an autonomous body under the overall administrative control of the Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Odisha. The OFSDS is headed by the Project Director who handles day-to-day administration of OFSDP-II along with other projects such as Ama Jungala Yojana (AJY) and OFSDS-OMBDAC Livelihood Improvement Project.

The OFSDP-II is being implemented in 12 (twelve) Territorial Forest Divisions and 2 (two) Wildlife Divisions of the state with the overall guidance of the High-Power Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha and the Governing Body, headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha as its Chairperson. This Chapter, apart from elaborating the organization structure of the OFSDP-II, also highlights the sanctioned strength of staff of the project and present position at different levels of project management like Project Management Unit (PMU) at state level, Divisional Management Unit (DMU) at Forest Division level and Field Management Unit (FMU) at Forest Range level.

The Project Management Consultants (PMC) engaged in the project facilitates by providing technical support to the PMU and other management units in implementing the project interventions in the project area. Though the composition and number of the team of subject matter experts / consultants of PMC, including international consultants are prescribed in the project document, the actual number of consultants under mobilization at any given time varies, depending upon the requirement of the service of the concerned consultant(s) at that stage of project implementation. This chapter also provides the information regarding the status of mobilization of PMC consultants during the year 2025-26.

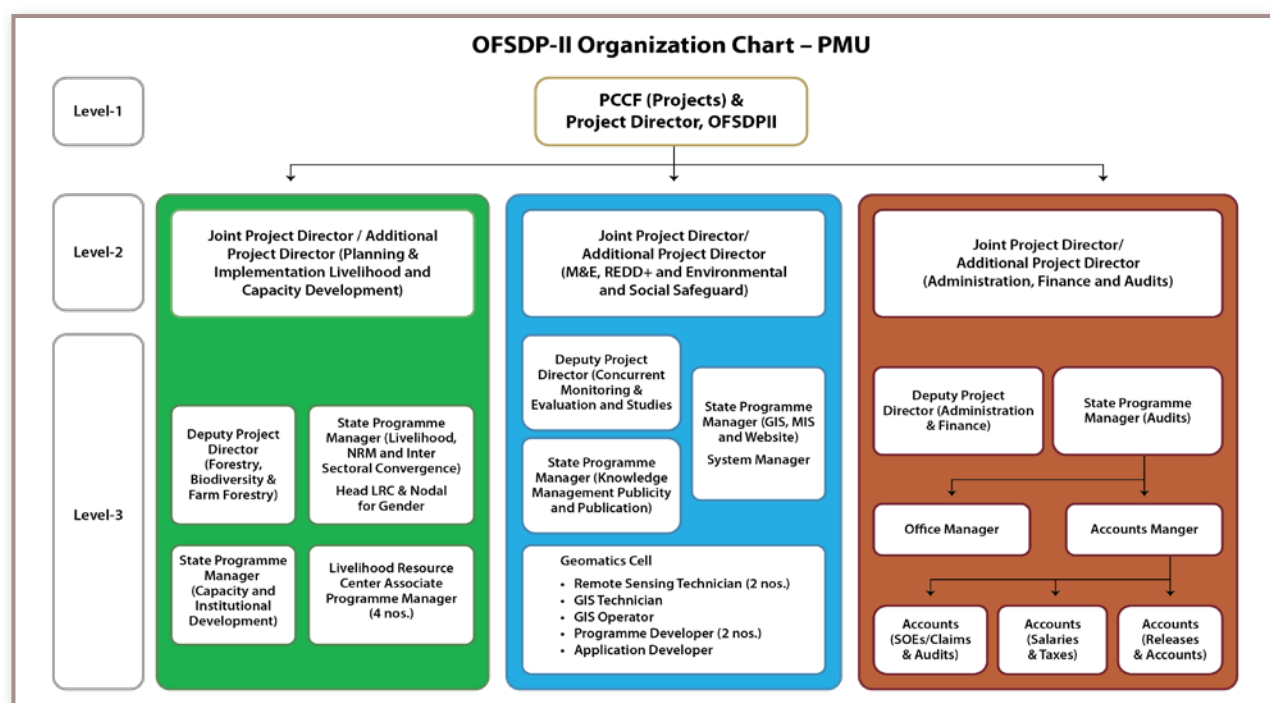


Table:1 PMU Staffing

Level	Rank	Sanctioned Position	Sanctioned Number	Existing Number (As on 31-03-2026)
Key Staff				
Level 1	PCCF/ APCCF	Project Director	01	01
Level 2	CF/CCF	Joint project Director/ Additional Project Director	03	02
Level 3	DCF	Deputy Project Director	03	02
Level 3	DCF equivalent	State Programme Manager (C&ID), (GIS, MIS & Website), (LLI, NRM & ISC), (KM,P & P) and (Audit)	05	05
Level 4		System Manager	01	01
Level 5		Accounts Manager	01	01
Level 5		Office Manager	01	01
Level 6	Clerical Staff	Accountants	03	02
		GIS Technician	08	06
		Cluster Manager	05	05
Total Key Staff			31	26
Supporting Staff				
Level 7	Clerical Staff	Personal Secretary	01	01
Level 8	Clerical Staff	Personal Assistant	04	03
Level 9		Stenographer	04	04
Level 10		Computer Operators	12	07
Level 10		Drivers	12	12
Level 11		Other supporting staff exclusively for the Project	27	25
Total Support Staff			60	52
Total PMU Staffing			91	78

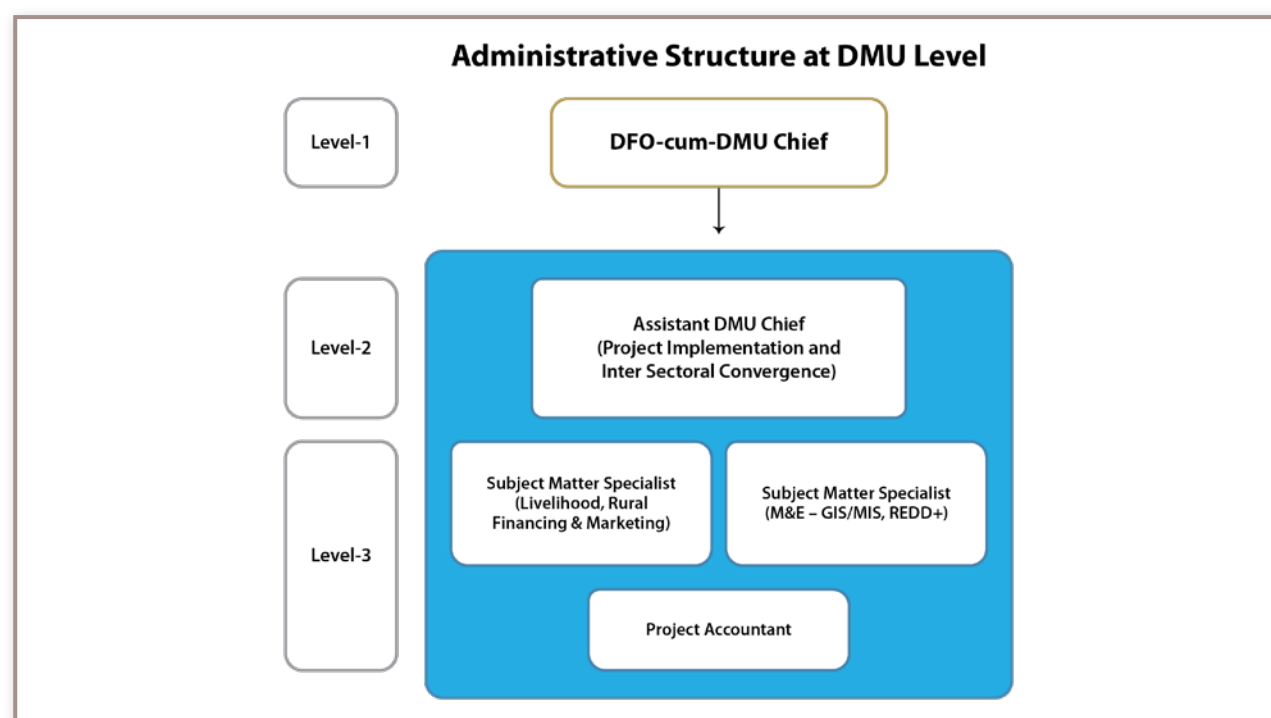


Table:2 DMU Staffing (inclusive All DMUs)

Level	Rank	Sanctioned Position	Sanctioned Number	Existing Number (As on 31-03-2026)
Key Staff				
Level 1	DCF	DMU Chief	12	12
Level 2	ACF	Assistance DMU Chief	12	12
Level 3		Subject Matter Specialist	24	23
Level 4	Clerical Staff	Project Accountant	12	12
Total Key Staff			60	59
Supporting Staff				
Level 5		Stenographer	12	12
Level 6		Computer Operators	12	12
Level 6		Drivers	12	12
Level 7		Other supporting staff exclusively for the Project	24	12
Total Support Staff			60	48
Total DMU Staffing			120	107

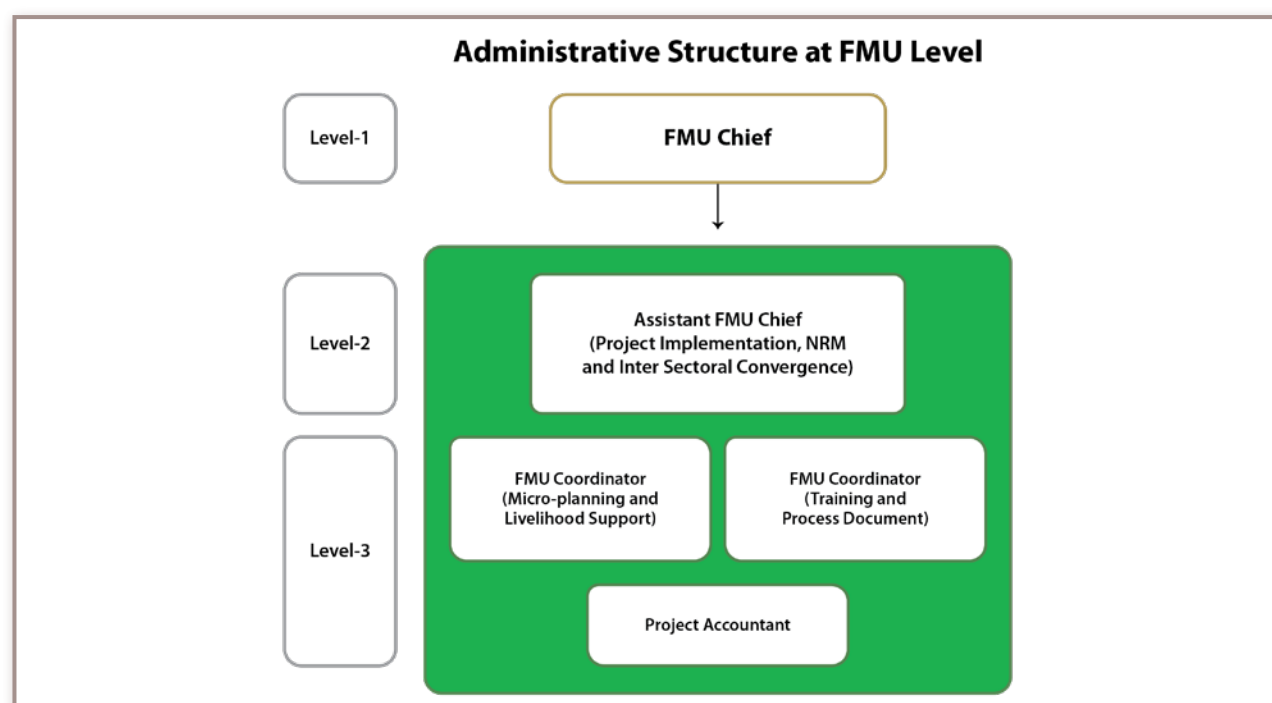


Table:3 FMU Staffing (inclusive All FMUs)

Level	Rank	Sanctioned Position	Sanctioned Number	Existing Number (As on 31-03-2026)
Key Staff				
Level 1	Range Officer	FMU Chief	47	47
Level 2	Forester	Assistance FMU Chief	47	47
Level 3		FMU Coordinator	100	100
Level 4		Project Accountant	50	50
Level 5		Computer Operators	50	50
Total Key Staff			294	294

**Table:4 PMC Staffing**

Consultant / Expert (Sanctioned)	Category	No. of Sanctioned Consultants	No. of Consultants Mobilized during 2023-24
CMRV	International Consultant	01	Nil
Team Leader	National Consultant	01	01
CFM & Micro Plan	National Consultant	01	01
Advisor/Biodiversity cum Consortium Manager	National Consultant	01	01
Livelihood	National Consultant	01	Nil
CMRV	National Consultant	01	01
Social & Env. Consideration	National Consultant	01	Nil
Institutional Capacity Building	National Consultant	01	Nil
M&E / MIS	National Consultant	01	Nil
GIS/Remote Sensing	National Consultant	01	Nil
Total		10	04

13.1 Budget and Expenditure F.Y 2025-2026

A budget of Rs. 40.54 Crores but Government of Odisha Finance Department was approved amounting of Rs. 40.54 Crore sanctioned as per Demand No- 22 in the approved an amount of Rs.22.30 Crores was received from Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha for the Financial Year 2025-26.

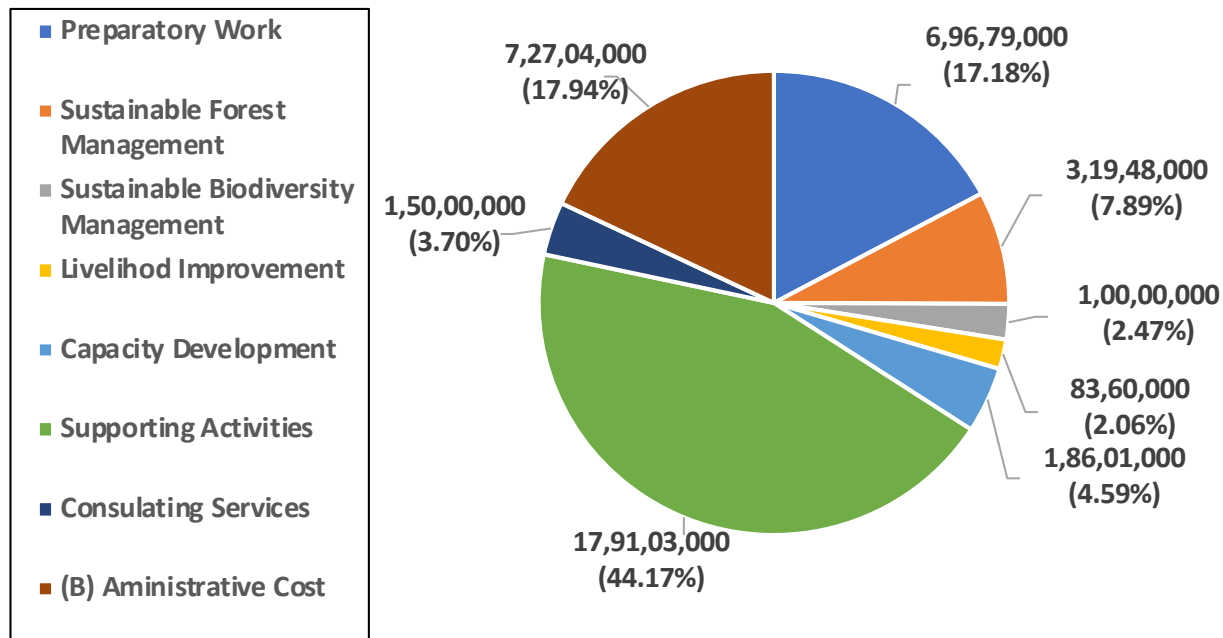
The total expenditure incurred during the year was Rs.32.79Crores. Components wise Funds Proposed, Funds Received and Expenditure incurred during F.Y 2025-26 is given below:

Funds Proposed, Funds Received and Expenditure during the Financial Year 2025-26 Name of the Project: Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase-II (ID-P257)

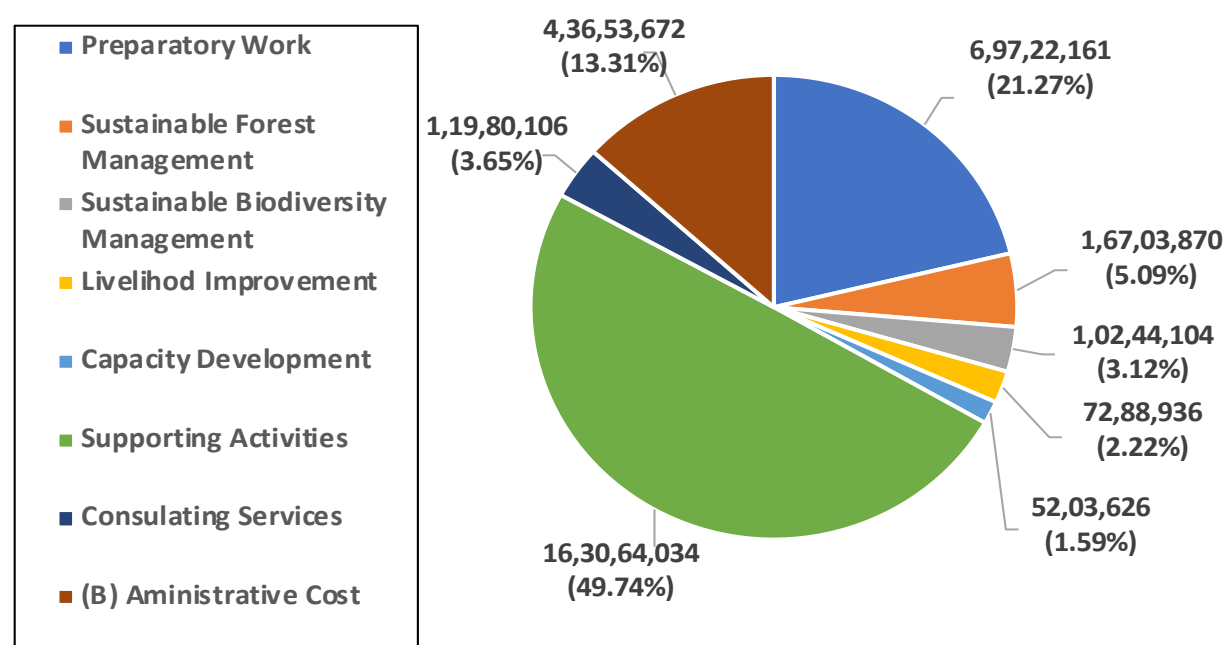
Item of Work		Budget Provision Rs. In Crore	Fund Received From FE&CC Dept., Govt. of Odisha	Total Expenditure Rs. In Crore
1	Preparatory Work	6,96,79,000	22.30 Crores	6,97,22,161
2	Sustainable Forest Management	3,19,48,000		1,67,03,870
3	Sustainable Biodiversity Management	1,00,00,000		1,02,44,104
4	Livelihood Improvement	83,60,000		72,88,936
5	Capacity Development	1,86,01,000		52,03,626
6	Supporting Activities	17,91,03,000		16,30,64,034
7	Consulting Services	1,50,00,000		1,19,80,106
Total (A):		33,26,91,000		28,42,06,837
(B)	Administrative Cost (State Share)	7,27,04,000		4,36,53,672
Grand Total:		40,53,95,000	22.30 Crore	32,78,60,509



Approved Annual Plan of Operation for the FY 2025-26 showing all components Total Budget Provision : Rs.40.54 Crores



Expenditure for the FY 2025-26 showing all components Total Budget Expenditure : Rs.32,78,60,509

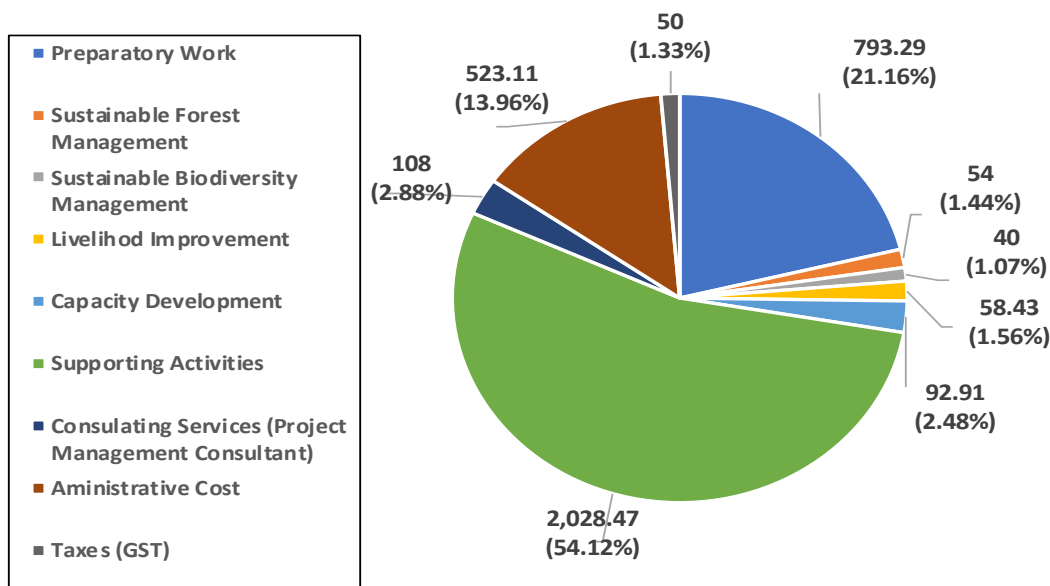


13.2 Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2026-27

The Annual Work Plan of the year 2026-27 was prepared keeping in mind the continuity of work in 1211 VSSs of Batch-I, II, III & IV as per the project schedule. The Annual Work Plan and Budget for-2026-27 is placed below:

Annual Work Plan for the Financial Year-2026-27 ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, PHASE-II SUMMARY (INR in Lakhs)	
COMPONENT	Amount in Rs. Lakhs
(A) Programme Expenditure	
Preparatory Works	793.29
Sustainable Forest Management	54.00
Sustainable Biodiversity Management	40.00
Livelihood Improvement	58.43
Capacity Development	92.91
Supporting Activities	2028.47
Consulting Services (Project Management Consultant)	108.00
TOTAL (A)	3175.10
(B) State Share	
Administration Cost	523.11
TAXES (GST)	50.00
TOTAL (B)	573.11
GRAND TOTAL Rs. in Lakhs (A+B)	3748.21
GRAND TOTAL Rs. in Crore	37.48

Component Wise Annual Work plan for the Financial Year- 2026-27 (Rs.3748.21 in Lakh)



13.3 Summary of Budget Receipt, Expenditure and Reimbursement

The overall budget received and expenditure incurred for the project during the financial year 2025-26 is given below:

Summary of Receipt and Expenditure & Reimbursement Claim during 2025-26		
Funds Received & Expenditure		Amount (Rs. In Crore)
A	Opening Balance as on 01.04.2025	84.40
B	Funds Received from Forest, Environment and Climate Change Deptt., Govt. of Odisha during 2025-26	22.30
C	Less, expenditure made during F.Y 2025-26	32.79
D	Closing balance as on 31.03.2026 (D=A+B-C)	73.91

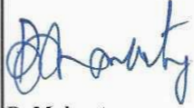
13.4 Re-imbursement Claims

The Funds received as Re-imbursement Claims from JICA is summarized below:

Reimbursement claims		Amount (Rs. In Crore)
A	Reimbursement Claim due as on 01.04.2025	2.33
B	Reimbursement Claim submitted for disbursement during the Financial Year 2025-26	25.81
C	Less, Reimbursement Claim received up to 31.03.2026	16.53
D	Reimbursement Claim due but not received up-to 31.03.2026 (D=A+B-C)	11.61



Project Financial Statement for the FY 2024-25

ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY				
ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT- PHASE-II				
CONSOLIDATED PMU & DMU OF OFSDP-II				
BALANCE SHEET AS ON				
LIABILITIES	Sch. No.	31st March 2025	31st March 2024	31st March 2023
(Amount in INR)				
CAPITAL FUND				
As per Last Balance Sheet		92,42,09,752	92,56,33,346	57,09,69,489
Adjustment Related To Previous Year		1,86,050	-	-
Add: Surplus - Excess of income over expenditure		10,60,88,023	(14,23,595)	35,46,63,857
TOTAL		1,03,04,83,825	92,42,09,752	92,56,33,347
CURRENT ASSETS LOANS & ADVANCES				
Cash in Hand		-	-	-
Cash At bank- Saving Bank account		26,18,75,913	24,64,26,388	81,88,22,320
Fund Transfer in Transit		-	-	(25,000)
Cash At bank- Short Term Deposit		75,00,14,028	65,11,44,581	5,77,19,322
Balance with FMUs	1	1,55,75,307	2,01,18,735	4,00,73,641
Security Deposit	2	1,56,486	1,56,486	77,700
Advances / Receivables	3	66,43,139	1,02,92,218	1,25,20,966
Advance to Employees	4	-	-	-
TOTAL CA & L/A (A)		1,03,42,64,872	92,81,38,408	92,91,88,949
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS				
Expenses Payable	5	-	-	-
Deduction Payable	6	60,234	63,838	31,659
Recoveries Payable	7	35,22,416	35,67,955	32,42,957
Other Current Liabilities	8	1,98,398	2,96,863	2,80,986
TOTAL CL & PROVISION (B)		37,81,048	39,28,656	35,55,602
NET CURRENT ASSETS (A-B)		1,03,04,83,824	92,42,09,752	92,56,33,347
TOTAL		1,03,04,83,824	92,42,09,752	92,56,33,347
Notes to Accounts: Notes to Accounts form part of Balance Sheet.				
As Per Reports Of Even Date Attached				
For SRB & Associates Chartered Accountants Firm Regd. No.310009E		 PCCF, OFSDS Bhubaneswar		
 B. Mohanty Partner M.No.056264 Bhubaneswar 4th November, 2025		 SPM(Audit) OFSDP, BBSR		
		 DPD(A&F), OFSDP Bhubaneswar		
		 Accounts Manager OFSDP, BBSR		





ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY				
ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT- PHASE-II				
CONSOLIDATED PMU & DMU OF OFSDP-II				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR				
PARTICULARS	Sch. No.	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
		(Amount in INR)		
(A) INCOME				
Grant in Aid-Fund Received from Government of Odisha		49,53,36,000	50,00,00,000	1,06,13,42,000
Released to DMUs		56,221	(1,06,603)	-
Bank Interest		4,55,00,917	3,81,32,574	2,83,20,343
Bank Interest from DMUs		58,21,770	48,05,055	78,57,251
VSS Bank Interest		2,375	1,03,311	65,089
Misc. Income		6,574	2,55,052	87,339
Refund from VSS (unspent Amount)		-	500	4,140
TOTAL INCOME		54,67,23,857	54,31,89,890	1,09,76,76,163
(B) EXPENDITURE				
Preparatory Works	9	8,28,49,054	8,52,57,071	8,35,30,169
Sustainable Forest Management	10	7,40,17,237	21,50,98,511	40,69,22,323
Sustainable Biodiversity Management	11	1,67,22,599	44,36,519	65,01,730
Livelihoods Improvement	12	68,49,808	1,32,24,617	4,36,65,700
Capacity building	13	3,41,44,039	2,00,27,608	1,77,46,905
Supporting Activities	14	14,65,85,795	13,80,75,332	11,61,08,611
Phase Out / Phase In	15	-	-	-
Project Management Consultant	16	1,32,24,463	1,92,38,010	2,70,54,707
Total		37,43,92,994	49,53,57,668	70,15,30,144
Administrative Cost	17	6,62,42,839	4,92,55,817	4,14,82,162
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		44,06,35,834	54,46,13,485	74,30,12,306
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		10,60,88,023	(14,23,595)	35,46,63,857
As Per Reports Of Even Date Attached				
For SRB & Associates Chartered Accountants Firm Regd. No.310009E		 PCCE, OFSDS Bhubaneswar		 DPD(A&F), OFSDP Bhubaneswar
 B. Mohanty Partner M.No.056264 Bhubaneswar 4th November, 2025		 SPM(Audit) OFSDP, BBSR		 Accounts Manager OFSDP, BBSR





ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY				
ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT- PHASE-II				
CONSOLIDATED PMU & DMU OF OFSDP-II				
CONSOLIDATED RECEIPT AN PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR				
PARTICULARS	Sch. No.	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
		(Amount in INR)		
RECEIPTS				
Grant In Aid		49,53,36,000	50,00,00,000	1,05,60,00,000
Released to DMUs (& In Transit)		93,720	(11,103)	-
Bank Interest		4,62,21,790	3,93,52,946	3,01,72,420
Bank Interest refund from DMU		58,21,770	48,80,277	78,57,251
Misc. Income		2,35,938	15,84,647	87,339
Other Receipts (Security Deposit of Contractual staff)		20,58,337	35,638	10,43,954
RTI Fees		-	-	-
OFSDP Phase-I		-	2,53,419	-
Utkal Automobiles Ltd.		-	6,22,523	-
Refund of Advance(Unspent Balance of DMU)		2,44,307	38,925	12,78,888
Refund of Advance(Officer)		-	8,91,326	4,826
Refund of Advance(Staff)		2,425	38,640	10,297
Refund of Advance(Others)		4,306	3,926	29,837
Refund of Advance(ATLC-Member Secretary)		-	-	40,000
Professional Tax		-	-	3,450
OTHER RECEIPTS:-				
EMD		1,10,72,696	88,30,282	5,000
Return From Bank(Salary-Officer & Staff)		-	-	93,480
Return From Bank(Communication Exp)		-	-	800
Return From Bank(Release to DMUs)		-	-	-
Encashment of Fixed Deposit		-	40,29,98,926	68,78,83,469
TOTAL RECEIPTS (A)		56,10,91,290	95,95,20,373	1,78,45,11,012
PAYMENTS				
Preparatory Works	18	7,63,23,038	7,82,73,013	7,75,62,794
Sustainable Forest Management	19	5,38,87,402	18,44,84,809	35,63,05,059
Sustainable Biodiversity Management	20	1,49,93,881	5,44,904	30,000
Livelihoods Improvement	21	52,52,788	33,84,696	2,07,41,095
Capacity building	22	1,90,88,035	86,79,680	62,67,996
Supporting Activities	23	14,11,19,185	12,47,94,711	10,76,01,296
Phase Out / Phase In	24	-	-	-
Project Management Consultant	25	1,32,24,463	1,92,38,010	1,95,39,663
Administrative Cost	26	4,79,04,534	3,64,19,179	2,91,52,051
Other Payments	27	7,49,78,991	48,26,49,555	81,71,28,399
TOTAL PAYMENTS (B)		44,67,72,318	93,84,68,557	1,43,43,28,352





SURPLUS / (DEFECIT) (C) (A-B)				
		11,43,18,972	2,10,51,815	35,01,82,659
Add: Opening Cash / Bank Balance				
(i) Cash in Hand		-	-	-
(ii) Cash at Bank				
(a) Saving Bank account		24,64,26,388	81,88,24,829	31,41,99,079
(b) Short Term Deposit		65,11,44,581	5,77,19,322	4,81,74,160
(c) Fund in Transit		-	(25,000)	14,86,69,864
TOTAL (D)		89,75,70,969	87,65,19,151	51,10,43,103
TOTAL (C+D)		1,01,18,89,941	89,75,70,966	86,12,25,761
Closing Cash / Bank Balance				
(i) Cash in Hand		-	-	-
(ii) Cash at Bank				
(a) Saving Bank account		26,18,75,913	24,64,26,385	81,88,22,320
(b) Short Term Deposit		75,00,14,028	65,11,44,581	5,77,19,322
(c) Fund Transfer in Transit		-	-	(25,000)
TOTAL (E)		1,01,18,89,941	89,75,70,966	87,65,16,642
As Per Reports Of Even Date Attached				
For SRB & Associates Chartered Accountants Firm Regd. No.310009E		 PCCF, OFSDS Bhubaneswar		
 B. Mohanty Partner M.No.056264 Bhubaneswar 4th November, 2025		 SPM(Audit) OFSDP, BBSR		
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ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE-II

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society

Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha

SFTRI Campus, Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar-751 029

www.ofsds.in | webmail@ofsdp.org